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Medical advice forces Whitelaw to quit after 30 years in front line

Tories' No 2 is replaced by Belstead

A man no other could replace

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

Lord Whitelaw yesterday resigned as Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Scotland after 30 years in the front line of politics.

Today as his successor, Lord Belstead, begins his task of ensuring success in the Lords for the Government's heavy and controversial legislative programme, Lord Whitelaw will explain the automatic few weeks since he suffered a mild stroke.

Mrs Thatcher's decision not to appoint another senior figure to succeed Lord Whitelaw in the position of Deputy Prime Minister indicates she is unwilling to nominate anyone who would be regarded as a "Crown Prince".

There can be another Leader of the House of Lords. There might in time be another Deputy Prime Minister. But there can be no replacement for Willie Whitelaw, the most instinctive politician in the Thatcher Government.



Lord Whitelaw leaving Westminster Hospital after treatment for his recent stroke.

Any such appointment could have prejudiced the prospects of others who she believes could follow her or unlike Lord Whitelaw, provide an ambitious figure around whom opponents could rally.

But though Mr John Wakeham, the Leader of the House of Commons, who also takes over from Lord Whitelaw the post of Lord President of the Council, will stand in for Mrs Thatcher when she is absent for Prime Minister's Question Time, the question of who is running the Government will be raised every time she is abroad.

Had he joined them, the Prime Minister could have been undermined and Thatcherism wrecked at the moment of its crucial test. But because Willie stayed loyal and took the waverers with him, she survived and prospered. No wonder that yesterday she acknowledged her debt to him in a remarkably frank resignation letter.

DTI shake-up planned to boost smaller firms

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Plans for the biggest shake-up in the history of the Department of Trade and Industry are to be announced tomorrow by Lord Young of Grambsay, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry.

In a White Paper issued after a wide-ranging review of DTI activities, Lord Young will reveal a series of measures aimed at boosting small businesses and competition. Regional aid grants, currently given automatically to enterprises being set up in depressed regions, will in future be given selectively to those companies that meet departmental criteria.

The scrapping of automatic regional development grants is likely to provoke a bitter political row over what is likely to be pilloried as a backdoor method of cutting back funding.

Heavy share losses feared

By Our City Staff

London's stock market is expected to make a nervous start this morning, with sharp falls following the plunge on Wall Street on Friday.

Fears are likely to be heightened by a warning on American television yesterday by the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, Mr John Phelan, that there is "no guarantee" there will not be another crash like that on October 19.

Movements overnight in the Far East, particularly Japan, will decide whether London sees a new wave of selling.

Dealers hope any mark-down in London will be more modest than the Friday collapse in New York.

Wall Street has had a bigger recovery than other markets since October 19, which leads some dealers to believe it was more vulnerable than London.

Foreign exchange markets are also likely to be nervous ahead of trade figures for the United States.

The markets will be watched anxiously by the authorities in London. Last year Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, cut interest rates to stem the worst of the market's slide and renewed weakness should at least head off fears that interest rates might have to rise again.

The Chancellor and key colleagues and officials met at Chevening House in Kent over the weekend to map out the strategy for his Budget, March 15 or March 22, look the most likely Budget dates.

A number of key decisions were taken. The Budget is likely to contain tax cuts in spite of setting a tight target for government borrowing.

Cuts in higher rates of tax and changes in the way personal allowances for husbands and wives are treated were discussed.

Hunt for crew after trawler is washed up

A sea search was going on off the Cornish Coast last night for survivors after a fishing trawler had been washed up at Towan Head, near Newquay, a Padstow lifeboat spokesman said. It was not known how many crew were on board the Laura Jane.

The trawler had reported that it was taking in water before it lost radio contact.

The Padstow lifeboat was launched and helicopters from the RAF stations at Chivenor and Brawdy were in the air.

Family of five found shot dead

A family of five were found dead with shotgun wounds at their home on the outskirts of Loughborough, Leicestershire, yesterday.

Ulster police were satisfied that the 30-year-old man, his 1-year-old wife and three young children, were not murdered by terrorists. They said appeared to be a domestic tragedy.

They said that the wounds are inflicted by a legally-held shotgun found near the bodies, which were discovered about 2pm by the brother of a dead man.

In what was described by police as "a grotesque scene", the husband was found in the kitchen, the wife in the living room and the three children in their bedrooms.

Two of the children, a five-year-old girl and her brother, aged three, were found together. The third child, aged one, was dead in a cot in another room.

Names of the dead were not being released until relatives had been informed. Police said they had not established the reason for the killings.

INSIDE Gaza curfew

Israel imposed a curfew on all night in the Gaza Strip as the death toll in the recent wave of unrest rose to 31 and street strikes continued. Page 5

United win

Manchester United confirmed its superiority of the big clubs over smaller ones in this season's FA Cup when they beat Second Division Ipswich 2-1. Page 30

Portfolio Gold

The £24,000 prize in the Times Portfolio Gold weekly competition - twice the usual amount - was shared on Saturday by three readers, while another three shared the £4,000 consolation prize. Details, page 3. Portfolio list, page 20.

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Successor Lord Belstead in London last night

It has been quite a traumatic time for him after being in office for so many years. He is keeping very well.

In his letter to Mrs Thatcher, Lord Whitelaw praises her for leading the Conservative Party to three general election victories and for becoming the longest serving Prime Minister this century but says her greatest achievement has been the "transformation of Britain's position both at home and abroad".

He has been one of nature's party managers, absorbing politics through the pores, taking his policy attitudes from life rather than from books.

Whitelaw's background has made him the perfect foil to Mrs Thatcher, one of the few men around her who could say no, or at least "not yet, Margaret", to a somewhat impulsive and always ideological Prime Minister.

Continued on page 16, col 4

Senior Tories fear new Navy cuts

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Continued defence cuts will seriously reduce the size of the Royal Navy fleet over the next few years and prevent British warships from maintaining a global role in the Far East, the Gulf and even the Falklands, senior Conservative MPs fear.

Some senior Tory backbenchers are convinced that unless the Government agrees to spend more money on conventional defence, the fleet strength could be cut to 40 frigates and destroyers by the 1990s.

One senior political source said yesterday that the Government was already deceiving the public by claiming that it was still committed to a force of "around 50 ships" when there were now believed to be only 45 left.

The issue is seen as of such grave importance that the influential House of Commons Defence Committee has placed the future size and role of the Royal Navy's surface fleet at the top of the agenda for this year.

Continued on page 16, col 2

Government may bow to pressure and ban foam

By Michael Horsnell

The Government may now abandon its proposed code of practice on the use of deadly types of polyurethane foam in furniture and how to pressure from fire chiefs by imposing a complete ban.

The possible change of heart coincided with an admission yesterday that the lethal foam had already been banned from Government buildings.

Mr Francis Maude, Minister for Consumer Affairs, disclosed that urgent talks would be held with leaders of the Chief and Assistant Fire Officers' Association, who have branded as "nonsense" the Government's proposed new code of practice on the use of foam.

It also emerged that government action, whether it be a tougher code than first envisaged or the introduction of legislation imposing a complete ban, will be speeded up.

"We shall discuss the matter with the firemen and we are hoping to draw it to a conclusion within days rather than weeks", Mr Maude said.

At least 300 people a year die in Britain from carbon monoxide and hydrogen cyanide fumes given off by the highly inflammable polyurethane.

The draft code of practice phases out the most dangerous standard foam over three years, but would still allow the use of high-resilience polyurethane, which is just as deadly when alight.

Fire chiefs are urging a complete ban on standard and high-resilience foams, and a huge government programme for the installation of smoke detectors in every household.

New laws proposed by them would also mean that manufacturers and retailers who continued to sell the dangerous foam from January 1 next year would face imprisonment.

Crown Suppliers, the government department responsible for furnishing government buildings, including the House of Commons, confirmed yesterday that it did not permit polyurethane.

A spokesman for the organization,

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Whitty backing for union laws

Mr Larry Whitty, general secretary of the Labour Party, yesterday said the Government's trade union legislation could be made more flexible but could not be reversed.

In a speech to a Fabian Society conference on Labour and the trade unions, Mr Whitty said that pressure from the trade union membership had been pushing in the direction of one member, one vote and union members would not allow the party to reverse this process.

"The straitjacket of Tory legislation has forced us to do certain things within the trade union movement. These can be made more flexible and more appropriate to trade union reality, but they cannot be made reversible."

Two lost Runaway overboard man weds

Two seamen were missing presumed drowned in the Channel yesterday after a tow rope parted and swept them overboard from the tug Lowland Raider.

A third man hit by the wire rope was taken 28 miles by helicopter to hospital in Guernsey.

The helicopter, from RAF Brawdy, South Wales, and a French aircraft, searched unsuccessfully for the missing men.

The tug had been towing a large floating crane which is now drifting off the Channel Islands.

Harvey Michael Ross, the brilliant dealer who fled Britain two years ago owing more than £13 million, has married in a South American prison cell in an attempt to avoid extradition to the UK to face fraud charges.

Mr Ross, aged 38, married Miss Laura de Barros, daughter of a former Uruguayan Navy chief, last week — as Yorkshire detectives flew to Montevideo to collect him.

West Yorkshire police said yesterday: "We've booked a seat for him on the plane and we're sure the place will be filled."

Tube man 'no help'

A man wanted for questioning by British Transport Police over the King's Cross Underground fire has been eliminated from inquiries. The police said yesterday that the man, "known to frequent the Underground, has been interviewed and cannot assist the inquiry further."

The statement follows a weekend report that a man in blue overalls was seized by London Transport staff after he tampered with machinery at another Tube station.

Detailed findings of the transport police investigation into the disaster, which killed 31, will be given to the public inquiry which begins in London on February 1. Transport detectives are still working from a special incident room.

Privatize Shotgun puzzle

The Post Office should be stripped of its letter delivery monopoly, a paper published by the Adam Smith Institute says.

The paper will be published today, 24 hours before Mrs Teresa Gorman, the Tory MP for Billericay, Essex, moves her 10-minute rule Bill in Parliament seeking to remove the monopoly.

The institute, which has already called for the privatization of British Rail and the coal mines, says that most innovations in the postal services have come from private operators.

The Duke of Hamilton and Brandon has been refused a shotgun certificate under Section 28 of the Firearms Act, which relates to "public safety or peace".

The duke, brother of the Scottish office minister, said yesterday that he had never owned a shotgun, did not need a licence, and did not approve of shooting.

He had received a "very confusing" letter from the police and would be asking for an explanation, though he would not appeal against the decision.

Inquiry on surgeon

Mr Sharad Mahatme, a surgeon who has been suspended from duty for nearly three years on full pay, is to face an inquiry in March.

Mr Terry Patchett, Labour MP for Barnsley East, asked Mrs Edwina Currie, Under Secretary of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, to investigate what he said was the gross waste of public money and damage to the surgeon's reputation.

Mr Mahatme, aged 54, of Wood Walk, Wombwell, Barnsley, an ear nose and throat specialist, has been paid £30,000 a year since his suspension from his post at Barnsley District Hospital in 1985, accused of professional misconduct.

Speelman on form at Hastings

By Harry Golombek

After Friday's rest day in the Foreign and Colonial Hastings Grandmaster Chess Tournament, the players resumed on Saturday.

Grandmaster Jonathan Speelman seriously weakened the pawn formation of grandmaster John Nunn, whose position later crumbled.

Neither the Russian grandmaster, Lev Psikis, nor Nigel Short could engineer a breakthrough and they agreed to draw at move 34. Grandmasters Murray Chandler and Bent Larsen went to 60 moves when Chandler resigned.

International master Nigel Davies attacked sharply on the king's side but later collapsed and resigned at move 34.

In round 11 played yesterday, the game Short v Chandler was a 20 move draw.

The remaining games seemed likely to continue well into the session.

Fears over reform of benefits

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Poor families may rely on loan sharks to supplement their income because of social security reforms which come into effect this April, a report published today says.

The Social Security Consortium, which represents bodies dealing with children, families and the low-paid, says measures to reduce dependency on the state are likely to produce "hidden forms of dependency" on families, charities, and loan sharks.

The consortium says that its worst fears about the effects of the Social Security Act 1986 have been confirmed by subsequent government action, such as the freezing of child benefit.

Of Little Benefit: A Critical Guide to the Social Security Act 1986 (Social Security Consortium, Association of Metropolitan Authorities, 35 Great Smith Street, London SW1 1 2Z).

Transport union vote key to Kinnock policies

By Roland Rudd

Britain's biggest trade union, the Transport and General Workers', starts voting for a new executive today which will have a crucial impact on Mr Neil Kinnock's chances of introducing new Labour policies to fight the next general election.

The hard left has a reasonable chance of reclaiming control of the union if it is regarded as its flagship, the union's soft left has a precarious hold on the executive, with a slim majority of four out of the 39 places.

The hard left has made clear that if it wins, the union's block vote of 1,250,000 will be swung against Mr Kinnock's far reaching review. It is extremely difficult to win a motion at a Labour conference without the transport union's support.

The three-week election promises to be a bitter one. The fact that it will be the last union election fought under the 1984 Trade Union Act, which allows workplace ballots, is seen as an advantage for the left.

But Mr Kinnock's supporters are pinning hopes on the union's moderate chairman, Mr Brian Nicholson, a tough-speaking dock worker from London's East End.

The Labour leader already has Mr Nicholson to thank for

pushing through his variation of one-member one-vote for the selection and reelection of Labour MPs.

When the executive was split down the middle Mr Nicholson took the unprecedented action of voting twice in his capacity as chairman and has been a marked man ever since.

A new hard left bulletin, *Workers Reply*, makes clear the group's determination to marry the union to "true socialist principles".

The paper says that "parliamentary opposition is no substitute for a determined fight back (against the Government) waged and led by the trade union movement". It will be a "period of bitter and intensified struggle", the paper says.

The confidential minutes of the last London-based region one executive meeting on October 14 show that Mr Peter Hagger, a supporter of the Communist Campaign Group, "experienced grave frustration" at the executive's decision to replace hard left secretaries in Scotland, the Midlands and the South-west, with soft left officials.

Mr Hagger is reported to be furious that Mr Nicholson has systematically rooted out hard left secretaries across the union's regions. If the hard left takes control Mr Hagger has made clear that this situation would be reversed.

Union moderates point to Mr Bobby Owens, secretary of the region six, representing Merseyside and the North-west, as an example of a "hard left political appointee" which they want to stop.

Mr Owens, who had not been a full-time official before he was appointed secretary, rejects the charge. He was a former manager of the Merseyside Trade Union and Unemployment Resource Centre, which was criticized by moderate Labour MPs after allegations that the Militant Tendency and other hard left groups used the centre to promote their own political propaganda.

The hard left's campaign to

take control of the union is being spearheaded by the three regions it controls: London and the South-east, the North-west and Scotland.

Eleven out of the 14 hard left candidates in the key trade group ballots come from these three regions; the ballot is split between the different industrial sectors in which the union organizes and across the 11 regions in the country.

After a national broad left caucus in Barnsley, South Yorkshire, it was disclosed yesterday that Militant activists in the union were instructed to establish special "co-ordinating committees" modelled on those established in Merseyside.

Labour tries more action to root out extremists

By Roland Rudd

Labour's national executive is expected to order a further crackdown on the Militant Tendency and other extremist organizations after new allegations of intimidation and harassment against party members.

The party's organization committee will today discuss a confidential report on Militant infiltration in the South-west and Bermondsey party in London as well as extremist infiltration of the Haringey Labour party.

The new chairman of the committee, Mr Eddie Haigh, who played a key role in the expulsion of Militant members in Liverpool, is determined to take strong action against the extremists throughout the party.

Mr Haigh, assistant secretary of the Transport and General Workers', said yesterday: "The Labour Party is being held back by extremist groups, who operated in insidious ways and who talked the nonsense of revolutionary politics".

The committee will today hear allegations of extremist infiltration. The latest example is in Haringey, where a party member, Miss Mandy Mudd, is alleged to have encouraged party members to storm the council chamber, break up party meetings and take direct action "against the Labour group which refused to break the law, and set a legal budget".

The extremists in Haringey have accused the Labour group of selling out in its refusal to set an illegal rate which would have led to their being sacked.

Socialist Action, another Trotskyist organization, is alleged to be infiltrating some Labour Party constituencies. New allegations of Militant

Alliance defence policy Firm backing for Nato link

By Richard Ford Political Correspondent

The leaders of the Liberal and Social Democratic parties received strong backing yesterday for their insistence that the new merged party support the Nato alliance.

The grassroots Liberal opposition to the policy prospectus for the new party, which backs British membership of Nato, is expected to be ignored when the document is published later this week.

A MORI opinion poll conducted for Times Newspapers finds minimal support among Alliance supporters for British withdrawal from Nato.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader and Mr Robert Maclean, leader of the SDP, will see from the findings that 86 per cent of voters support British membership of Nato and that more than 60 per cent back a defence policy including a nuclear deterrent as vindication of their tough stance on an issue they believe crucial to a successful launch for the new party.

Support for Britain removing nuclear weapons from her soil and waters but remaining in Nato remains consistent at 23 per cent in 1986 and a similar figure last December while only 8 per cent favour Britain removing nuclear bases and leaving Nato.

But there has been a swing to unilateral disarmament with 30 per cent in favour as opposed to 24 per cent at the time of the general election. MORI conducted its poll among 1,000 adults over 18 at 67 constituency sampling points in Great Britain on December 29 and 30, and found only 7 per cent of Alliance supporters in favour of leaving Nato.

The policy prospectus for the new party is considered crucial by both party leaders. Mr Maclean is anxious to ensure that Dr David Owen is given as little opportunity as possible to portray it as weak on defence.

The difficulties that face the new party were highlighted yesterday when Dr Owen and his allies who say Dr Owen has been operating a "party within a party" during the past few months.



Mrs Rosie Barnes, Social Democratic MP for Greenwich, beneath the smile of Dr Owen yesterday

Owen and his supporters have also begun issuing policy documents in an attempt to emphasize their separate identity.

They claim to have 16,000 paid-up supporters and the announcement yesterday will infuriate Mr Maclean and his allies who say Dr Owen has been operating a "party within a party" during the past few months.

A statement from the Campaign for Social Democracy said that Dr Owen would be nominated as leader of the SDP and that Mr John Cartwright would take over from Mrs Shirley Williams as president at the beginning of March. The statement added that the majority of the SDP national committee who did not intend to join the merged party had made their constitutional plans for the continuation of the party.

£10,000 pay threat to TV-am strikers

By Tim Jones

Leaders of the striking technicians at TV-am, who meet tomorrow to discuss their seven week dispute with the company, have been told their 229 members will not be reinstated unless they accept pay cuts of £10,000 a year.

As the union side formulates its response, the company has been infuriated by an overtime demand from one of the technicians for £1,300 a week, of which about £1,000 is for one night's work during the King's Cross Underground fire.

The company said yesterday: "This is exactly what this dispute is about. They don't seem to understand that we will never allow these kind of payments again."

Since the dispute began, management, aided by technicians and even the company lawyer, have been performing the functions normally carried out by the technicians and the experience has hardened the company's determination to permanently change working practices.

Management has discovered that "frankly, the jobs are not all that hard to do" and is insisting that the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians abandon its old restrictive "Spanish customs" before being allowed back to work.

Mr Bruce Gyngell, the managing director, is insisting that a 10-point plan outlined by management is not negotiable and his stance has been strengthened by the Independent Broadcasting Authority accepting scheduling arrangements made to deal with the dispute.

Although basic salaries for ACTT technicians at the station range from £19,000 to £27,000, the average wage, with overtime, is £38,550 with some receiving more than £60,000.

Salaries on this scale have been achieved through overtime payments of 120 per cent and Mr Gyngell is insisting they should be reduced to no more than 30 per cent.

Whitelaw's successor Hard worker, good listener

By Michael Horsnell

Lord Belstead, aged 55, has enjoyed a degree of anonymity among the political cognoscenti as Lord Whitelaw's No 2 in the House of Lords, though he has never been underrated by his Labour opponents.

A product of Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, he has been perhaps more widely known as a member of the All England Lawn Tennis Club and the MCC.

John Julian Ganzoni, 2nd Baron Belstead, succeeded his father Sir John "Union Jack" Ganzoni on his death in 1958 but it was nearly six years before he made his maiden speech in the Lords, on education.

Sir John, who had been knighted by Lloyd George and elevated to the peerage by Neville Chamberlain in 1938 after 22 years as MP for Ipswich, was so well known as a journalist that the members' Dining Room was frequently referred to as "Chez Ganzoni".

His son, who yesterday became the new Leader of the Lords and Lord Privy Seal, proved to be rather less flamboyant, choosing to continue as a history master at Selwyn House preparatory school in East Sussex until 1960.

It was in that year that he used his inheritance to buy a 650-acre farm near Woodbridge, Suffolk, where he raises cereals and sugar beet and has a small herd.

On the recommendation of Lord Carrington he became the peer in Mrs Thatcher's first ministerial team at the Department of Education in June 1970, and in the next three years, he established his political future.

A hard worker and a good listener, he continued to progress as Under Secretary in Northern Ireland until the Conservatives lost power in 1974.

After the Thatcher victory in 1979 he became Home Office Under Secretary and then in April 1982 was drafted into the Foreign Office as Minister of State.

There he made his only memorable blunder, when he referred to Istanbul by its former name of Constantinople on a visit to Turkey, thus incurring the wrath of the Turkish press.

A bachelor and a man renowned for his courtesy, Lord Belstead went on to become Minister of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food before switching last year to the Department of the Environment as Minister of State.

Here he has been in charge of the privatization of the water industry and the dumping of waste in the North Sea.

His job as the new Leader of the Lords and Lord Privy Seal will mean a salary increase of nearly £6,000 to £40,438.

Belstead's leadership, which I greatly welcome, I shall continue to work for our Conservative Party in the country to the best of my ability.

"With my very best wishes to you and the Government for every possible success in the future."

"Yours ever, Willie."

In his reply, the Prime Minister said: "My dear Willie, 'Thank you for your letter of 10 January."

"It was with a great sense of loss that I learnt of your decision to resign your office as Lord President and Leader of the House of Lords. I fully realize that medical advice leaves you no choice and because your wellbeing comes first I have no choice but to accept your resignation."

Respect from folk he never forgot

By Ronald Farr

"Do you know the way to Lord Whitelaw's home?" I asked a farmer as he heaved a yawn into a field near Grestyoke.

"You mean Willie?" he replied and gave me directions. Camille's mark respect in old ways and for a man to hold some of the greatest and highest positions in the land yet retain the common touch enough to be known affectionately as Willie is high achievement.

Yesterday he was taking life quietly, as he intends to from now on his farm at Ennismore on the edge of the Lake District.

He represented Fenrith and the Borders as MP for 28 years, but calls to the great offices of state did not mean he ever forgot the people who put him into parliament.

They speak of his thoughtful qualities and his remarkable ability to make people feel that their particular concern had his highest priority.

Leading article, page 9

Haughey praises Thatcher

By John Cooney

Mr Charles Haughey, the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic, described Mrs Thatcher yesterday as "a woman who keeps her word", and said he was confident of her commitment to the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Speaking on Irish Radio, he said relations between London and Dublin would never be normal as long as the problem of Northern Ireland remained unresolved, but subject to that qualification, the two governments had "very good working relations".

British diplomats noted that he did not press his usual demands for a British withdrawal from Ulster. Instead he emphasized "the practical and realistic basis" of current Anglo-Irish contacts.

He said he found the Anglo-Irish ministerial conference a useful mechanism for influencing the British Government, and announced that a further meeting between Mr Tom King, the Northern Ireland Secretary, and Mr Brian Lenihan, the Republic's Foreign Minister, would take place shortly.

Mr Haughey's only daughter, Eimear, was married at a quiet ceremony in Dublin yesterday. The bridegroom was Mr John Mulhern, who heads the Findus food company in Ireland.

Beaufort's High Court and magistrates' court buildings are expected to be open today, in spite of being damaged in a car bomb explosion on Saturday.

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FLY THE MAGIC HORSE

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Boy's 3-month wait for heart operation to end 'within days'

By Jill Sherman and Thomas Practice

Matthew Collier, the boy aged four who has had heart surgery postponed three times, is expected to be admitted to the Birmingham Children's Hospital today and have his operation on Wednesday.

The cardiac surgeon who is to carry out the hole in the heart operation, Mr Leon Abrams, yesterday denied that Matthew had been given preference over other children at the hospital because of publicity about the case.

Mr Abrams said: "He is exactly where he should be medically. If we had had the beds we would have operated earlier but he has now reached the top of the waiting list."

Mr Abrams said he still had several other children on his list desperately needing treatment who would all have to wait their turn. He has 40 children needing heart surgery on his own list and 20 others needing similar surgery are on other consultants' lists.

He said: "If there is a bed available in the intensive care unit, Matthew will have his operation on Wednesday."

"Several children have got better and we expect that a bed will become free by then."

Matthew has been waiting for surgery since October. Last week his parents failed to persuade the High Court to force doctors to operate.

The operation has been delayed because of a shortage of nurses trained in the special

skills needed to care for youngsters after heart surgery.

Mr Barry Collier and his wife, Patricia, have had offers to pay for the operation privately, but feel that on principle it should be performed by the health service.

However, they have agreed to take up the offers of payment if the operation has not been performed by the end of the week, Mr Collier said yesterday.

The family will also wait until the end of the week before taking up an offer from the National Council for Civil Liberties to take their son's case to the European Court of Human Rights.

The family's MP, Mr David Winnick, will call tomorrow for an emergency debate when the House of Commons resumes, on the lack of trained nurses at the Birmingham Children's Hospital.

Nurse shortages at two children's hospitals in London, Great Ormond Street and its sister hospital, the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Hackney, have brought rising waiting lists for operations and increased spending on agency staff.

The two hospitals have 2,110 children waiting for operations and nearly 500 of these cases have been waiting for more than a year.

Last year Great Ormond Street spent £2 million on agency staff, more than 6 per

cent of the nursing budget. Many wards had only half their complement of skilled paediatric nurses.

The new cardiology unit at Great Ormond Street has been able to use only half its 56 beds since it opened on December 29 because of a shortage of trained staff. The new unit can only attract 65 qualified paediatric nursing staff out of a full complement of 120.

Work on a replacement intensive care unit for children needing heart surgery, including transplants, begins at Harfield Hospital, west London, today.

The £1 million unit is being built because of the growing demand for such operations on children and may help relieve the pressure on other hospitals.

The Harfield unit is Britain's main centre for heart and heart-lung transplants on youngsters and also treats babies only days or weeks old who have been born with genetic heart problems requiring corrective surgery.

Dr Rosemary Radley-Smith, consultant paediatric cardiologist in charge of the unit, said: "The new unit will provide us with infinitely more space as well as increasing our beds and cots from the current 11 to 18."

The existing unit has become cramped and overcrowded because of the increased demands on it.

A golfing chairman with time to spare



Off duty: Sir Adam Thomson, still chairman and chief executive of British Caledonian until the British Airways takeover is completed, takes a rare opportunity to relax and think about the future.

Sir Adam, who lives near Gatwick Airport, was enjoying a round of golf at Walton Heath. He spoke of his love for the game, and reflected on the recent struggle for his airline. "My family are relieved that the battle is over", Sir Adam said. "It has been very intense every day, with late nights, including weekends. They are very pleased to be able to see me for a change."

Sir Adam, who has a handicap of 22 and is a member of the Royal & Ancient, said: "The great thing about golf is that you can play it around the world. The people and the rules are the same. It's a great social game and a wonderful way of making contacts in business. Golfers around the world have one thing in common", he smiled: "To get that blasted ball into the hole."

He is also a keen sailor and keeps a boat in Majorca. "I've kept a boat in that part of the world for 14 years, but have never had enough spare time to spend there."

Asked about the future, Sir Adam said: "I have no plans. I've been in this business with British Caledonian for 26 years, so I have a bit of considering to do."

(Report and photograph: Stephen Markeson)

Research plea on meningitis danger

By Our Social Services Correspondent

The Government's chief medical officer has appealed to scientists to come forward with new ideas for research into meningitis after a private meeting with leading experts.

Sir Donald Acheson has said that the Medical Research Council and the Department of Health and Social Security would "seriously consider" any well-prepared and validated requests for funds.

"The problem at the moment is coming up with new ideas to research," a spokesman for the department said yesterday. The National Meningitis Trust recently called for £1 million government funding into research but the department said it had not received specific research proposals.

Last Friday Sir Donald met leading scientists and epidemiologists to discuss the latest outbreaks of the disease which claimed several lives over Christmas and the New Year. Earlier Sir Donald had assured the public that there was no meningitis epidemic.

The experts discussed ways of tackling the disease but there is little information to explain why the number of cases this year is double the number in 1985 or why cases occur in clusters in various parts of the country.

A health department spokesman said that it was too early to say whether Sir Donald would issue further advice to family doctors after Friday's meeting.

Two months ago the chief medical officer wrote to GPs alerting them about suspected cases of meningitis and advising them to take appropriate precautions, such as referring them to hospital.

The first extensive research project into carriers of the disease in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire, will be published on Wednesday but it fails to pinpoint the cause of the outbreak there, which affected 15 people and claimed two lives over four years.

Other research is still being carried out in Edinburgh and Manchester into saliva and blood samples taken from the Stonehouse residents. It will try to establish whether there are any genetic links between cases.

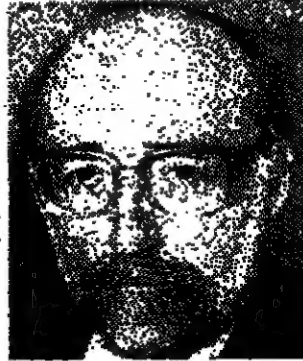
Meanwhile tests were being carried out yesterday on the body of a teenager from the West Midlands who died on Saturday night of the disease.

Miss Rachel Cooke, aged 16, from Lichfield, Staffordshire, died shortly after being admitted to Good Hope Hospital, Sutton Coldfield.

Mr Steven Ashmoor, hospital administrator, said that her family and friends were being contacted to be given medical treatment as a precaution.

He said tests were being carried out to try to find out which type of meningitis strain caused her death.

It is understood that the parents of a boy aged four in Wakefield, West Yorkshire, plan to sue three GPs who failed to diagnose meningitis in their child, who died of the disease on New Year's Eve.



Sir Donald Acheson: an appeal to scientists

Blood clot peril may be reduced

By Our Science Correspondent

A new method of detecting potentially lethal blood clots has been developed by scientists in Northern Ireland and is undergoing its final clinical trials.

The portable computerized system gives precise analyses of leg blood clot tests within seconds, according to the research team at Queen's University, Belfast.

It will enable hospital specialists to give patients bedside checks and quickly provide treatment to prevent pulmonary embolism, an often fatal condition in which a blood clot in the leg breaks away, moves towards the heart and lodges in the lung.

The leg clots, or deep venous thrombosis, develop in about one-third of patients who undergo surgery, particularly for hip replacement and about 6,000 people a year in Britain die.

The Belfast researchers believe that their method could replace two traditional ways of diagnosing the clots, clinical examination and venography, where dye is injected into a vein to assist X-ray identification.

Dr Ian Brown, one of the developers of the system, said: "Our method is quick, accurate, painless and in comparison with other techniques, relatively inexpensive."

The technique measures blood flow and blood pressure in the leg when a cuff and strain gauge are attached.

If the computer reading of the measurements shows a slow blood outflow there is a high probability of a clot.

The equipment is being made in Ulster and progressively introduced in the National Health Service. A company has been set up to market it in the United States, Europe and Australia.

Theory on Philby's role dismissed

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

The idea that Kim Philby was "used" by British Intelligence has been dismissed by a former deputy chief of MI6, who provided information for the book that put forward the theory.

Sir James Easton, aged 78 and now living in Detroit, said he interrogated Philby in 1951, before MI5 took over the case. "I did what I could to elicit the truth as far as our office was concerned. The evidence against him was piling up, but it was all circumstantial. There was no proof."

Sir James, who is still covered by the Official Secrets Act, insisted that the theory of Philby being "used" by Sir Stewart Menzies, former director general of the secret intelligence service, was the only new theory in *The Secret Servant*, the biography of Sir Stewart by Mr Anthony Cave Brown.

"It's all been said before," he said. "I don't think any of us subscribe to the suggestion about Philby."

Sir James, deputy director general of MI6 from 1953 to 1958, said it was wrong to compare the new book, to be published in Britain in July, with *Spycatcher*, the memoirs of Mr Peter Wright, the MI5 agent.

"I think Wright was asking for trouble, because he was making allegations that were not necessarily true and he was expressing them for the first time as a former member of the security service."

"When Anthony Cave Brown approached me, it was long before the Wright situation. I was just helping with some historical facts, all of which have been expressed already."

In spite of his remarks, Sir John Bailey, the Treasury Solicitor, has already approached the publishers of *The Secret Servant*, Michael Joseph, seeking a copy.

There are fears within the Government that former members of the intelligence services may have breached their obligations of confidentiality by co-operating with the author.

Meanwhile, Mr Edward Heath launched a further attack on the Government yesterday over its imposition of a three-line whip on a private member's Bill to reform the Official Secrets Act.

The former prime minister accused the Government of acting "monstrously" in taking the "unprecedented and unnecessary" step for next Friday's vote.

He said he would defy the whip and vote in favour of Mr Richard Shepherd's Bill, which aims to reform the discredited section two of the Official Secrets Act.

Mr Heath's action is certain to increase his isolation.

Mr Shepherd has won all-party backing for his Protection of Official Information Bill, but the Prime Minister is opposed to legislation on matters of national security being dealt with by a private member's Bill.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, will address the Conservative home affairs committee on Thursday as part of efforts to limit the number of backbenchers who will vote for Mr Shepherd's Bill.

Mr Hurd has already announced that the Government intends to publish its own White Paper on reforming the Act, but yesterday Mr Shepherd said ministers' reaction to his Bill had been "extraordinary".

Electricity circuit-breakers Safety claims 'misleading'

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

The public is being dangerously misled by claims made for anti-electric shock devices for homes which prevent death, the Institution of Electrical Engineers has stated.

The institution has condemned as "irresponsible" recent publicity for so-called residual current devices, which help to protect users of electrical equipment by detecting minute changes in current caused by faults such as severed wires and power cuts.

Although used in industry for many years, the devices sprang to prominence in 1986, after a *That's Life* programme which highlighted their use in protecting against death from electric shock.

Since the programme, sales of portable devices costing about £30, designed to operate between electrical equipment and the mains, have run at about two million a year.

The institution is concerned that they have attained the status of a fail-safe device, and points out that their basic principle allows some dangerous faults to go undetected.

The devices detect and respond in milliseconds to tiny imbalances in current in the live and neutral wires caused by, for example, a hand touching a live wire. The device shuts off the current before the victim suffers an electric shock.

However, the institution states: "It cannot be emphasized too strongly that to place sole reliance for shock protection on residual current devices is fundamentally wrong. People must not be misled into a belief that whatever the state of their electrical installation and equipment an RCD will provide complete protection."

There are situations, such as if contact is made between the live and neutral wires simultaneously, where no imbalance is produced.

"Electricity must be treated with respect and applied and used correctly. This is the only true safeguard", the institution says.

Farmers may grow firewood

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

Farmers may soon be growing firewood for profit, if ideas being researched are taken up.

Wood such as willow grows quickly and can bring big savings compared with other fuel systems, scientists believe.

Wood's potential as an alternative energy source is being examined jointly by the Long Ashton Research Institute, near Bristol, and the Northern Ireland Horticultural and Plant Breeding Station, near Enniskillen.

The International Solar Energy Society believes that growing wood for fuel could help to support farmers and keep up jobs in rural areas, as well as offsetting the cost of storage and farm surpluses.

Willow wood chips have proved much cheaper than oil as a fuel for glass houses, and willow chip fuel briquettes have been found to compare favourably in energy value with those from other sources.



Mr Ed Lemou: £8,000 will help with home move

Peugeot in hostages link denial

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Peugeot Talbot yesterday denied there was any link between the sale of second-hand car machinery to Iran and the exchange of French hostages.

Iran asked to buy the machinery, some of it 30 years old, when told by Peugeot Talbot that production of engines and gear boxes for the Iranian-built Peykan model would cease at the end of 1987.

Mr Brian Llewellyn, director of Peugeot Talbot public relations, said yesterday: "We are still waiting to hear from the Iranians which machines they want."

The deal is understood to be worth less than £3 million.

The Iranians have until January 31 to decide. Any machines not sold to Iran will be sold at auction in Britain.

The 1960s Hillman Hunter model was renamed the Peykan when the Iranians started to build it from kits of British parts in 1968.

RAC demands end to bottlenecks

By Gregory Weingarten

The RAC says that motorways are affected by pinchpoints, such as the one where the M61 feeds into the M6 at Preston, Lancashire, where 13 people died last October when a tanker ploughed into the back of slow moving traffic caused by roadworks.

Bottlenecks regularly occur because of under capacity and poor planning, the RAC says.

The area where the accident occurred has been called "death junction" and has a history of traffic deaths. A three-lane carriageway abruptly feeds into one lane at this junction, before feeding into the M6.

The 30-mile stretch of road between Chorley and Lancaster, from the M61 to the M6, has been the scene of 49 traffic deaths in the past two years, including two of the worst accidents.

Road safety organizations are pressing the Department of Transport to end pinchpoints and bottlenecks by improving the motorway system, and by not building motorways that become obsolete soon after completion.

"In the long term, the biggest problem is under capacity," Mr Tony Lee, director of public affairs at the RAC, said. "Motorway traffic increased 17 per cent last year. Britain's roads simply are not big enough or wide enough to cope with traffic, and once you have too much traffic the situation is deplorable dangerous."

Roadworks until next Monday:

London and South-east

M11 Essex: off peak lane closures and speed restrictions at jn 8 (Stansted airport); contraflow between jns 8 and 10 (Bishops Cleeve/Dunstable); carriageway closures at weekends with signed diversions.

M275 Hampshire: flyover construction between M27 and Rushmore roundabout.

M2 Kent: contraflow at jn 4 (Gillingham).

Midlands

M1 Leicestershire/Nottinghamshire: contraflow between jns 24 and 25 (A6/E Midlands airport/Nottingham).

M5 Hereford/Worcester: lane closure in both directions between jns 5 and 6 (Bromsgrove/Worcester north). North-bound entry slip at jn 6 closed; overnight carriageway closures.

M5 W Midlands: lane closures between jns 1 and 6 (W Bromwich and Worcester N).

North

M62 W Yorkshire: contraflow between jns 25 and 26 (Brighouse/M606 Bradford).

M63 Greater Manchester: jn 3 to 6 widening work, avoid area; follow signed routes and allow extra time for journeys to Manchester airport; restrictions for widening of Barton Bridge; peak hour congestion; construction of M63 flyover at Portwood roundabout; Stockport, roadwidth reduced to two lanes.

A1 (M) S Yorkshire: between A635 interchange, M19 and A638 interchange, Redhouse. Contraflow and slip road closures.

Wales and West

M4 Gwent: lane restrictions between jns 23 and 24 (Magor/A48).

M4 Mid Glamorgan: jns 34 to 35 (Llantrisant/Bridgend/Pen-y-coed). Lane restrictions; jns 36 to 37 (Bridgend/Pyle); bridge repairs; lane restrictions east and westbound.

M4 West Glamorgan: east-bound lane closures at jn 45 (Swansea).

M5 Somerset: lane closures on both carriageways between jns 23 and 26 (A38/Welington).

Scotland

M8 Lothian: east-bound traffic closed to hard shoulder only and no access from A899 at Livingston.

M8 Strathclyde: outside lanes closed both ways between jns 29 and 30 (Faisley/Erskine bridge).

M9 Central region: lane closures on both carriageways between jns 9 and 10 (M80/Stirling); jn 10 (Stirling) drainage repairs, inside lane closures.

M90 Fife: only one lane open on either carriageway at jn 1 (Admiralty flyover), near the Firth of Forth.

Information compiled and supplied by AA Roadwatch

Motorists offered tea and jams

Motorists who remember the 20-mile traffic jams that used to beset their holiday journeys to Devon and Cornwall in the 1950s and 1960s are being offered the chance to revisit notorious bottlenecks.

The West Country Tourist Board is offering "traffic jam weekends" in an area now served by better roads.

Trippers will be offered driving tours of former blackspots and will also be presented with a souvenir picture of a big tailback and a gallon of petrol for an old-fashioned price of five shillings (25p).

They will also be offered a clotted cream tea for 1s 6d (75p) and a picnic picnic for people leaving home at 5am and who remember stopping for dawn breakfasts.

For those caught up in a modern-day jam of 10 miles or longer in July, there is a 25 per cent discount.

Mr Mike Weaver, managing director of the tourist board, hopes visitors will appreciate the road improvements that have since been made.

ARTHRTIS RESEARCH

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We, the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council, are a charity raising funds for medical research into the causes and ultimately, the cure of all forms of the disease; and we rely entirely on voluntary contributions.

Our current expenditure on research exceeds £5 million, and donations in Memoriam form an important source of our income.

If you decide to make a donation to charity in memory of a loved one, or in place of funeral flowers, we ask you, respectfully, to remember us.

THE ARTHRITIS AND RHEUMATISM COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH

Working to find an earlier cure.

See local telephone directory or Yellow Pages for local ARC Representative

To: The Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research, 41 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AR

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Most voters believe poll tax less fair than rating system

By Richard Ford, Political Correspondent

The Government is facing growing opposition to its plans to introduce a flat-rate community charge with six out of 10 voters believing individuals in their household will pay more under the new system.

Only one quarter of voters agree with ministers that the community charge is fair and almost 67 per cent believe the present rating system, which has been widely criticised by the Government, is a fairer method of raising revenue locally.

The findings of a MORI opinion poll will give additional ammunition to Conservative critics of the proposed community charge who have attacked the Government, arguing that it is unfair and will prove damaging to the party at the next general election.

The Prime Minister will reply to the mounting criticism of one of the Government's most contentious pieces of legislation by pointing out that it was in the manifesto on which all Conservative candidates fought the last general election.

Ministers are prepared for a rough ride as the measure

passes through committee stage and into the House of Lords but the poll conducted by MORI for *The Times* shows that government efforts to promote the community charge have so far failed dismally.

The findings show a sharp rise in opposition to the tax since the general election and during the period last autumn when discussion of the plan was at its height.

MORI's poll shows a big swing against the Government with half Conservative supporters opposed to the plan for a flat rate community charge to be paid by everyone over 18, and opposition from 84 per cent of Labour supporters and three quarters of Alliance supporters.

Opposition to the poll tax has risen from 39 per cent at the time of the election to 65 per cent. Only 23 per cent now support the proposal while at the time of the general election 43 per cent supported it.

Six out of 10 voters said they expected people in their household to pay more under the community charge. Just 23 per cent believe the present rating system to be more costly.

One quarter of voters

believe the new tax will be fairer and 57 per cent say that on balance the present rating system is fairer overall — an increase of 21 per cent on the figure for last July.

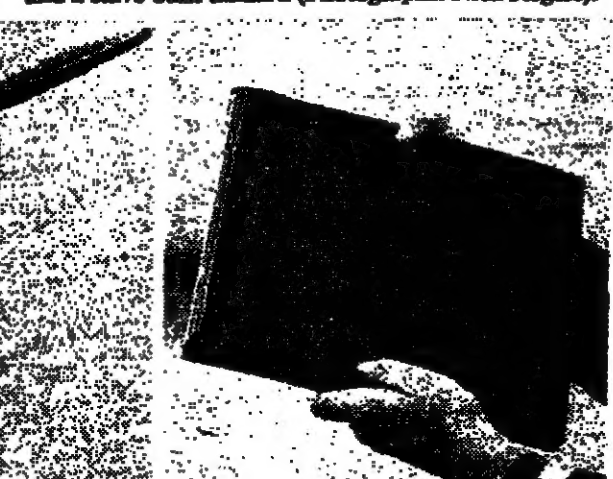
MORI, which conducted the survey among 1,000 adults in 67 constituency sampling points throughout Britain on December 29 and 30, found widespread opposition among all age groups and party supporters. It was opposed by three quarters of young people, 65 per cent of middle aged and 53 per cent of the over 55s. Seventy per cent of the working class were against the tax and 56 per cent of the middle classes. Opposition came from 60 per cent of homeowners and three quarters of council house tenants.

Meanwhile MORI found that of the 210 council house tenants in the 1,000 sample, a big majority wanted to remain tenants of local authorities. Under the Government's housing Bill tenants will be given the choice between a local council or private body, such as a housing association, as a landlord. But 79 per cent of those questioned said they would choose the local council with only 14 per cent favouring another body.

Sea gives up 1758 treasures



Back from the deep: from top left, clockwise: a half-hour sandglass recovered from the boson's store, a child's shoe, a wooden ballast spade, a seaman's square wooden plate and a stove-built tankard (Photographs: Nick Rogers).



By Andrew Morgan

A collection of unique eighteenth-century naval artefacts from HMS *Invincible*, which sank off Portsmouth in 1758, will be handed over next week to the Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust in Kent.

Some 1,200 items have been recovered so far by *Invincible* Conservations (1744-58) Ltd, operating under licence from the Department of Transport, and the Chatham Trust is acquiring 218 items.

These make up the most

significant collection from a naval vessel since the *Mary Rose*. They range from the gallery's caulking to pieces of coal, leather shoes and an hourglass that still works.

The most exciting finds

include a square wooden plate (the origin of the expression "square meal").

The collection will form part of a permanent exhibition on eighteenth-century warship construction which the trust hopes to open in 1990 in the Mast House and Mould Loft at Chatham, at present under restoration.

HMS *Invincible* was lost on the Horse Tail sandbank at the start of an expedition to Fort Louisbourg in Canada, to fight the French.

The wreck was discovered in 1979 when a trawler's nets snagged on a timber.

Mr Simon Aked, conservation director, said: "The *Invincible* is an informative about the eighteenth century as the *Mary Rose* was on Tudor times."

"One exciting discovery was that military buttons were found to have regimental numbers, previously thought to have first appeared in 1767. The find shows they existed in at least 1758."

The Southern Water Authority has told the company that it intends to release raw sewage into the sea less than a mile from the wreck from November, 1989. Mr Aked said it was unlikely that work will be completed by then.

MPs raise muddle of grants for trawlers

By Paul Vabely

MPs are to question senior Civil Servants about a £30 million grant to modernise the fishing industry.

Grants of £15 million were intended to induce trawler companies to remove vessels from their fleets to produce smaller British catches in line with EEC fishing quotas and in the wake of the cod war with Iceland.

Several firms took the de-commissioning money and then sold the boats at a substantial profit, according to a report by the National Audit Office.

The report criticises the Government for "the absence of an overall co-ordinated plan, effectively executed".

Most of the boats would have been withdrawn from fishing within the following year without the carrot of taxpayers' money, it concludes.

At the same time, the Government was handing out £15.9 million in grants for the construction of new boats which, on average, were capable of catching 60 per cent more fish than the ones they replaced.

Many of the new boats are designed to catch fish which were already severely restricted under EEC quotas.

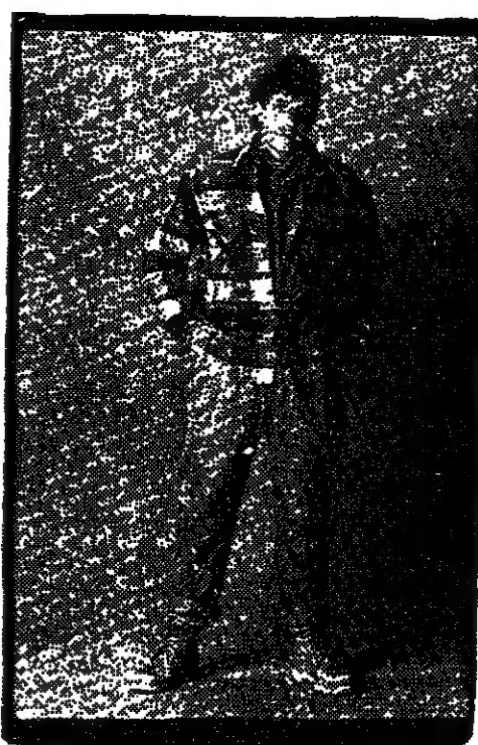
Overall the £30 million cash grants reduced the industry's net capacity by less than 7 per cent.

Mr Thomas Boyd, a leading trawler owner and chairman of the Boyd Line which received almost £1 million in the decommissioning grants, said: "The overall policy during the last 10 years has been a complete shambles."

The report is to be considered by the Commons public accounts committee on January 20. Mr Derek Andrews, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and his Scottish counterpart, Mr Loudon Hamilton, are to give evidence.

MPs are likely to raise the issue of those decommissioning grants which were paid to trawler owners who brought boats out of retirement to qualify for the grants which averaged at £500,000 for a dozen of the larger trawlers.

Labour members have already asked why virtually none of this was passed on to the fishermen who lost their jobs.



THEY WORK THE SAME HOURS, IN THE SAME JOB. WHY DOES ONE PRODUCE TWENTY PERCENT MORE THAN THE OTHER?

The man standing on the left is a typical American worker.

He's no brighter, no more talented than the British worker on the right.

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It creates overlapping qualifications in some sectors and leaves others with none at all.

And where they do exist they sometimes over-emphasise theory at the expense of practice.

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Our job is to make the system work effectively for companies like yours.

To increase the number of well-qualified workers.

To make sure every industry, business and occupation has its own set of employment-led qualifications, designed to help increase efficiency and productivity.

Together with the Manpower Services Commission, we help employers, the unions and awarding bodies decide on the standards of competence that qualifications need to meet.

Those that do meet the standards are then stamped with the NCVQ insignia and given the title of National Vocational Qualification (or NVQ).

Some sectors have already established their standards and so we've approved the first NVQs.

In agriculture for example. And hotel and catering.

Eventually we'll have an efficient system of qualifications that covers every industry and business.

Then, who knows?

One day it could be the British worker producing twenty percent more.

For further information on the National Council for Vocational Qualifications write to us at: 222 Euston Rd., London NW1 2BZ.



WHITEHALL BRIEF by David Walker

Time honoured rules for Cabinet

Cabinet discussions leak like the proverbial sieve and have done since they became a regular feature of British government in the nineteenth century. Gladstone often complained of what he called his "leakages" from his or as he more accurately would put it, the Queen's, Cabinet.

Yet talk around that celebrated table in 10 Downing Street remains the most private conversation in the country. The full minutes of Cabinet meetings circulate within only a tiny circle of officials and politicians. Most Civil Servants, even of the most senior departmental ranks, see only fragments of the minute taken by the Cabinet Secretary.

Cabinet work is something akin to freemasonry. The Cabinet Secretary in the 1950s, Sir Norman Brook, had as his assistant Burke Trend, later Lord Trend, who became Cabinet Secretary himself, there is little wonder that the way Cabinet business is conducted obeys time-honoured rules.

There is therefore more than antiquarian interest in reading the record of Cabinet conversation, even 30 years after the event.

In spite of the passage of the years, and the death of most of the political participants, the Cabinet archive is a great source for anyone interested in how present-day government works. It can safely be assumed the mechanics have not changed much between 1957 — the year for which the records are now open at the Public Record Office — and 1988.

Cabinets, we can infer, are both wonderfully economical in their discussions and at the same time prone to the point of going round in circles on a single issue.

Of course personalities make a difference. It is difficult to see Mrs Thatcher tolerating from the older Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone the rapid fire interventions couched in extravagant rhetoric that the Cabinet minute-taker jotted down from the mouth of the younger man of 30 years ago.

Yet it is a fair bet that the rhythm of Cabinets is the same. Thirty years ago the Cabinet could turn, easily,



Lord Trend, Cabinet Secretary from 1963 to 1973.

from discussing nuclear Armageddon to worrying about the Nash terraces around Hyde Park.

Marginal subjects such as whether a certain retired rear-admiral had a valid claim to a full Navy pension fill the agenda as readily as the nation's economy.

Mrs Thatcher is often presented (on the uncertain evidence of her press secretary, Mr Bernard Ingham) as dominating the Cabinet. Again, it is probable that she shares with her predecessors in office the capacity to lose in Cabinet as well as win.

What is not new is the ability of a Prime Minister to keep an entire issue out of Cabinet for a long time. Macmillan acted unilaterally over the fire at Windscale. It was not until a month after the disaster that the Cabinet was told what he had agreed with Sir Edwin Plowden, chairman of the Atomic Energy Authority.

For conspiracy theorists, the Cabinet minutes of the past are generally disappointing and so are Mrs Thatcher's likely to be when and if they are ever opened for inspection. The likelihood is that her Cabinet spends most of its time on the matters that preoccupied its predecessors.

They are, as measured by column inches in the Public Record Office: pensions (notably teachers' pensions); local government; Scotland and Wales (receiving a totally disproportionate amount of political time); traffic in London; the Royal Family and the preservation of listed buildings.

Civil war in Whitehall, page 7

WORLD ROUNDUP

US urged to shift weapons policy

Washington — A high-level defence report to be presented to President Reagan this week urges the United States to move beyond catalytic nuclear weapons and to concentrate on building more highly accurate, non-nuclear weapons that could be used in regional conflicts without triggering all-out war between the superpowers (Michael Binyon writes).

The report on long-term offensive and defensive strategy, by a 13-man commission which includes Dr Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, says that threatening a nuclear exchange that would devastate the Soviet Union and the United States was not a reliable deterrent to world-be aggressors in the Third World. It also warns that the Soviet Union could seize the Gulf unless the US and its allies strengthen their military capabilities in the area.

● **ROME:** The Pope, looking ahead to his meeting with Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, praised the superpowers for limiting medium-range nuclear weapons and urged them to take steps to scrap long-range missiles and chemical weapons.

Kim olive Noriega confusion

Seoul — An historic meeting is expected to take place today between President Chun Doo Hwan of South Korea and Mr Kim Dae Jung, the veteran dissident leader, which is aimed at paving the way for a smooth transition to democratic rule next month (Gavin Bell writes).

Under the Chun regime, Mr Kim has been sentenced to death for alleged sedition, sent into exile in the United States, and placed under house arrest on his return.

The surprise invitation to meet his former persecutor came as preparations went ahead to inaugurate Mr Roh Tae Woo, of the ruling Democratic Justice Party, as Mr Chun's successor on February 25. Mr Kim promptly accepted.

Zimbabwe boy delay

Washington — The Supreme Court issued a ruling at the weekend temporarily barring the State Department from taking custody of a nine-year-old Zimbabwean boy (Michael Binyon writes). The boy, Terrence Karamba, was allegedly beaten repeatedly by his father, a diplomat, and is now in the care of a New York child agency.

Justice Harry Blackmun's order stayed a lower court ruling that would have delivered Terrence to the State Department for eventual deportation. He directed all parties to submit more information by tomorrow evening.

Haitian poll ban Tact over the Rock

Port au Prince (AP) — The electoral council appointed by the Government of Haiti announced at the weekend that it had approved the candidatures of 11 presidential contenders and disqualified 11 others, including eight former officials of the deposed Duvalier regime, for next Sunday's poll.

A communiqué was carried on the state-run television and radio stations. Among the 11 candidates discarded in the move were Duvalier supporters, including Mr Clément Desir, Mr Claude Raymond and Mr Alphonse Lahens.

Embassies reprieved

Washington — The hard-pressed US State Department has been granted temporary relief from its budget crisis as Congress, in the final days of last session, hastily appropriated some extra funding (Michael Binyon writes). The move gives the department \$60 million (£33 million) more for salaries and operational expenses this year, enough to postpone a planned dramatic closure of 13 embassies and consulates, the dismissal of 1,270 employees and harsh economy measures. "The situation has gone from catastrophic to difficult," one official said.

Israeli alarm at Syrian gas warhead

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

Israeli military analysts are deeply concerned that Syria has perfected a nerve gas warhead capable of being delivered by one of its Scud missiles. American intelligence reports, shared with Israel, have suggested for some time that Syria is the most advanced country in the region in terms of chemical warfare capabilities.

Recognition of this growing threat led in November to a massive civil defence exercise in which all Jewish secondary schoolchildren were given gas-mask drills. Arab-Israeli lawyers have, in fact, started legal proceedings for discrimination against the school authorities on the grounds that no masks were available for Arab children. As part of the programme to protect the population, mask distribution centres are now being set up at some 600 sites around the country.

Beyond the Scud missile chemical warheads, Syria has also invested considerable effort in developing a variety of delivery systems for nerve gas for use by both aircraft and artillery.

An exhaustive study last summer by the Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University predicted that, if Syria were to use its chemical weapons, it would be more likely to concentrate on neutralizing key military positions and to register genuine military achievements rather than in a broader tactic which would

Riyadh (Reuters) — President Mubarak of Egypt discussed Iranian threats in the Gulf in talks here yesterday and warned that Egypt would not tolerate an Iranian attack on Gulf Arab states. On the first stop of his tour marking restoration of full diplomatic ties with Gulf states, Mr Mubarak held separate talks with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and Mr Frank Carlucci, US Defence Secretary, here on a Gulf tour which ended yesterday.

cause large civilian casualties and a powerful Israeli military response.

The Jaffee centre has concluded that there are three likely scenarios for the use of chemical warfare by Syria. The first would be to obtain a first strike advantage.

age. The second would be as a last resort before an impending military defeat. The last would be as a deterrent. Of the three, the first strike scenario is considered, "least likely".

Nevertheless, Syria's economic problems, which have meant that it is not capable of achieving the military superiority to Israel desired by President Assad, have added to the danger that the weapons could be used in a sudden attack to regain the Golan Heights, which were lost in the 1967 war. The centre estimates that Syria would not be deterred by moral taboos, given that such weapons have been employed in the region, notably in Yemen in the 1960s and more recently by Iraq against Iran.

With exhaustive intelligence reports about the chemical warfare threat available to the Ministry of Defence, plans to counter it have been drawn up. One of them inevitably is a mission to bomb the production plant, reported to be north of Damascus. However, Syria is well protected along its borders by batteries of Sam ground-to-air missiles, which would make such a raid extremely dangerous.

West struggles for unity to counter Gorbachov

It is barely a month since Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, made his end-of-year calls in Brussels in an atmosphere of bonhomie. At Nato headquarters he received congratulations and support for the superpower INF Treaty on Euro-missiles. At the Barlaymont, the EEC headquarters, transatlantic trade differences were put on one side amid Christmas toasts.

Yet as 1988 gets under way and seasonal good will fades, Europe and America again find themselves at odds over both trade and arms control. There is growing pressure for a fully-fledged Western summit — not just the annual economic summit of industrial countries, but a Nato summit at which President Reagan, Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and other leaders could confront the transatlantic divide, consider the Western response to Russia under Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, and chart the way forward.

"Western strategy needs to be sorted out before the next super-

power summit in Moscow and before the new US President is elected," one Nato diplomat said. "We need some new thinking to match Gorbachev's own." There has not been a Nato summit for more than a decade.

So far the transatlantic debate has lacked direction. On this side of the Atlantic, the EEC is inching towards economic union in 1992 and is at last confronting farm spending, with crucial decisions on agricultural reform expected at next month's special EEC summit here. There are moves toward a European defence identity, through the Western European Union. But there is no clear idea of what shape Europe should take in the 1990s, and no clear idea either of the relationship between such a Europe and the United States.

The left has some ideas; John Palmer of *The Guardian* analyses the problem well in his recent *Europe Without America?* (OUP, £14.95). But his solution — a neutral, non-aligned, demilitarized Europe embracing East and West — will find few takers.

Europe's problems and challenges partly stem from EEC enlargement two years ago. On the trade front, a compromise over exports of US maize to Spain is on the verge of collapse. Washington is submitting a complaint to Gatt (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) over

Brussels View

By Richard Owen

European barriers against oilseed imports, and the row rumbles on over alleged European subsidies for the Airbus. As a result, Europe and America are again teetering on the edge of a damaging trade dispute.

Differences over defence also remain unresolved. While welcoming the INF deal, the Europeans are worried that the next superpower accord might not take account of European interests. One fear is that, having abolished intermediate and shorter-range weapons in Europe, Moscow and Washington will take further steps towards "denuclo-

arization" by doing away with the third tier of nuclear weapons, namely short-range missiles with a range below 300 miles.

Beyond these anxieties lies a growing feeling that, some 40 years after Nato was set up, the assumptions on which the Atlantic alliance was based are in question. The generation which created the post-war world is dying out. Europeans increasingly doubt America's role as protector of Western interests, and are inclined to equate one superpower with the other. In America, there is a tendency to blame Europe for failing to support Washington in its world role and failing to contribute enough to common defences at a time of US budgetary troubles.

One difficulty is that Europe is itself divided over both defence and farm support, with the spotlight on West Germany, which by an accident of history has inherited the EEC presidency and is expected to lead Europe just as these issues are coming to the boil. In budgetary matters, Bonn seeks the impossible

by wanting a solution which does not adversely affect German farmers. In arms control, most other Europeans feel that Bonn is susceptible to Soviet pressure over the "third zero", since the fact that short-range missiles can hit only German targets, in East or West, makes their abolition attractive, even to conservatives in Bonn who otherwise favour military strength.

In France last week, President Mitterrand firmly rejected the "third zero" when it was put forward by Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader, on his visit to Paris. It remains to be seen whether Herr Kohl can take as firm a stand next week when he meets Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister.

Moscow, after all, does have a coherent strategy, and is adept — on past performances — at putting pressure on the West at its weakest points, before the West, with its cumbersome democratic practices, has had time to construct a united front.

Rabin boosts Gaza forces to stamp out Arab unrest

From Ian Murray, Jerusalem

As the Gaza Strip recovered from the worst spate of violence in the month since unrest in the occupied territories began, Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Defence Minister, told the Cabinet yesterday that the extent of the troubles had been underestimated. He said that reinforcements were being sent in to quell the riots.

The Cabinet, meeting in secret as the ministerial committee on security, was told that the Army, under orders from Mr Rabin since Christmas, "get tough", will continue its current methods and deployment. There was no sign during the meeting of any change of policy beyond sending in more troops to act more firmly. Mr Ariel Sharon, the Trade and Industry Minister, called for a special committee to oversee policy, but Mr Rabin rejected this as unnecessary.

This means that troops are patrolling in big units with orders to break up demonstrations as quickly as possible. The larger numbers available in the Strip yesterday succeeded for much of the day in keeping trouble to a minimum. Nevertheless, there were serious disturbances at Mughazi camp, where two people were shot and killed last Thursday, and at Rafiah, where demonstrators took to the streets as news spread that a man, aged 65, from the town had died of wounds he received there when troops opened fire on a demonstration on December 16.

United Nations sources said that at least 17 people were wounded in Mughazi and two others in Rafiah. The total death toll since disturbances began on December 9 is now put at 29.

Despite the increased army presence, with up to 10,000

troops reportedly available for patrols in the Strip alone, young Palestinians continue to try to make large areas "no-go" for Israeli cars and troops. Inside Gaza town, and in the camps on each side of the road yesterday, plumes of black smoke from burning tyres showed the wide continuing scale of the defiance.

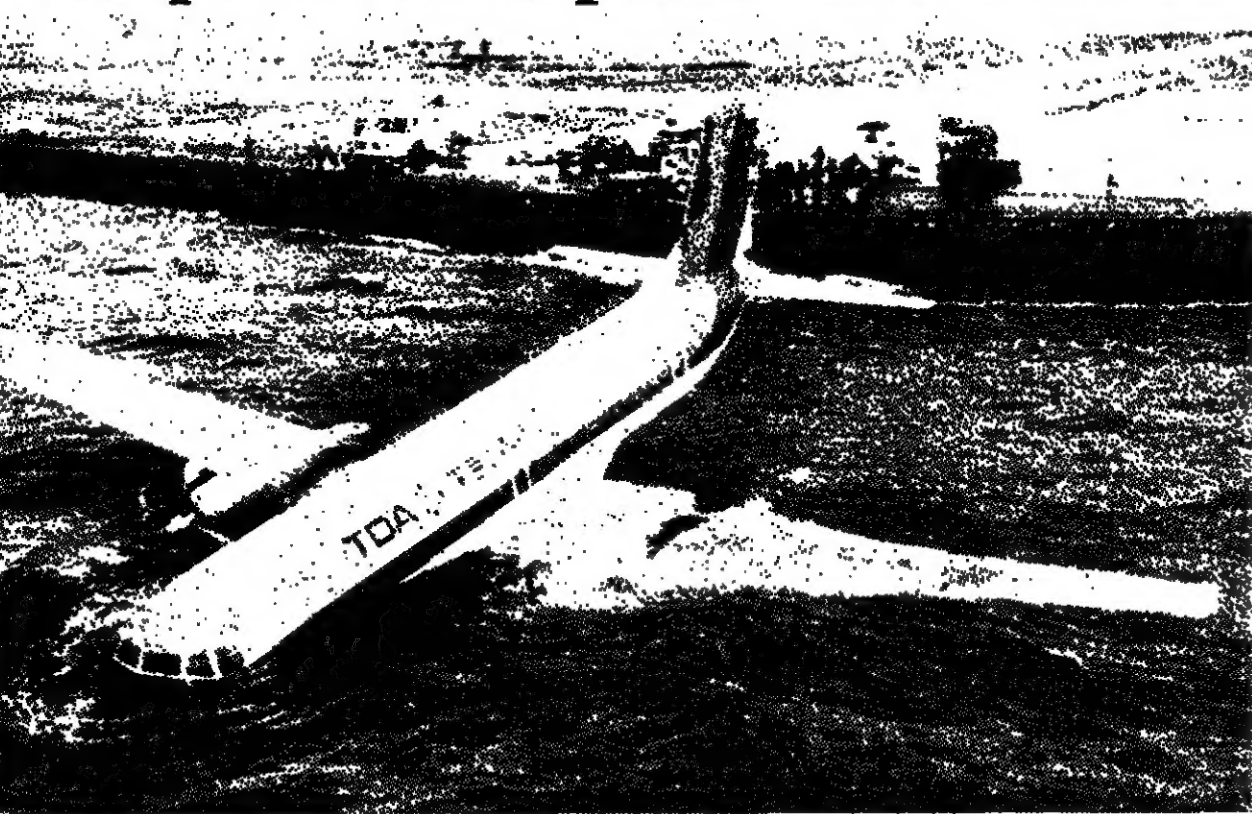
In Arab east Jerusalem, tear gas was used yesterday to break up a demonstration against the occupation by women assembled outside Herod's Gate of the Old City. As police moved in to arrest some of them, the officers were attacked by stone-throwing youths. When a number of these youths were arrested, they were repeatedly kicked and beaten by the police.

The UN investigation into the unrest and Israeli handling of it began quietly yesterday with a meeting between Mr Yasser Arafat, the PLO leader, and the UN Under-Secretary-General for special political affairs, and the two directors from the UN camps in the West Bank and Gaza.

● **LONDON:** Efforts to put Anglo-Israeli relations back on course were under way yesterday with both governments lowering the temperature following what an Israeli diplomat called "the Mello incident" (Our Diplomatic Correspondent writes). Mr David Mellor, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, last week severely criticized conditions in a Gaza Strip refugee camp.

Mrs Thatcher's staff said that she was ready to meet Mr Shamir, if he came to London on a private visit. The sources denied reports in some Sunday newspapers that the Israeli Prime Minister had been "snubbed". They said that he had not been seeking an invitation, as far as they knew.

Escape for 52 as plane skids into sea



A passenger aircraft resting in shallow water yesterday after it had skidded off the end of a runway at Yonago airport in western Japan. The 48 passengers and four crew on the Twa Domestic Airlines flight were all rescued, and only three people were injured. Airport officials said that nobody was killed because the turbo-prop VS11 aircraft plunged into a shallow bay in the Sea of Japan. The aircraft stopped less than 100ft from the end of the runway, at a point where the water was less than 10ft deep. Light snow was falling as the two-engined aircraft took off for Osaka on an internal flight.

Oil firm faces huge pollution damages

From Charles Bremner, New York

A Chicago judge is expected to announce one of the biggest damages awards in history today when he fixes compensation for the Bixton towns whose seashores were coated with crude oil from the break-up of the supertanker Amoco Cadiz 10 years ago.

In the epilogue to what is still the world's worst shore pollution disaster, Judge Frank McGarr will tell the Amoco oil company how much it must pay the hoteliers, fishermen and local councils to compensate for the clean-up and loss of income inflicted by the 223,000 tonnes of crude which gushed from the tanker in March 1978. Two hundred miles of Brittany's coastline were coated in the slick, which devastated local wildlife.

"We're optimistic. We feel the judge is going to give the largest award ever given in a maritime pollution case," said Mr Ronald Allen, one of a team of lawyers who fought the long legal battle for the French.

The French are claiming some \$600 million (£330 million) while the oil company has said it doubts that its liability exceeds \$148 million. Only \$50 million will be covered by Amoco's insurance.

Judge McGarr in 1984 after a six-month trial decided that the Chicago-based company and its subsidiaries Amoco International Oil Company and Amoco Transport Company were negligent in operating the tanker and liable for damages.

Amoco was in turn allowed to sue the Spanish shipyard which built the 200,000-ton tanker.

Thatcher steps up efforts to achieve Mandela's release

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

After her visit to Kenya and Nigeria, the Prime Minister is expected to give high priority to persuading Pretoria to release Nelson Mandela, former leader of the African National Congress, from prison.

Although Britain has long backed calls by the Commonwealth and the European Community for Mandela's release, the new emphasis is thought to signal a wish by Mrs Margaret Thatcher to play a more active role.

Official sources believe that freeing Mandela, who was imprisoned in 1964, would create the conditions for a dialogue between Pretoria and black South Africans, including the ANC.

At this point Mrs Thatcher would probably welcome an invitation to visit South Africa. But the sources added that, while Mandela's release would be seen as a positive signal, it was not a condition

for Mrs Thatcher's acceptance of an invitation.

By stressing her interest in his future, Downing Street has shifted the focus away from her previously hostile attitude to the ANC. At the Commonwealth Heads of Government Conference at Vancouver in October, she described it as a terrorist organization.

This caused some surprise because both Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, have held meetings with Dr Oliver Tambo, the ANC's acting president. Since the Vancouver conference the Foreign Office has had further contact with the ANC's London representatives, implicitly distancing itself from the "terrorist" remark.

It is also thought that Mrs Thatcher would welcome an invitation to Zimbabwe, in

spite of harsh public exchanges between herself and Mr Robert Mugabe at Vancouver. She has said that her opposition to mandatory comprehensive sanctions is based on a belief that they make the abolition of apartheid less likely.

Any measure of successful British influence in obtaining Mandela's freedom would help to mend fences with both Zimbabwe and Zambia.

President Botha is reported to be looking for a way to make the release of Mandela acceptable to right-wing elements. The release last November of Mr Govan Mbeki, the former ANC chairman who was also jailed in 1964, raised hopes that it was designed to test the water. Two South African ministers hinted that Mr Mbeki's behaviour and the public reaction to his release could determine Pretoria's decision.

Howe's Japan air fare plea

From David Watts, Oita City, southern Japan

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, has quickly outlined the principal themes of his visit to Japan — the establishment of a new rapport between Britain and Japan and the need for further liberalization of trade.

Japanese-British relations "need fully to reflect our importance to each other. They need to reflect the weight that Japan and Britain each carry in our interdependent world as standard bearers of political freedom and economic dynamism."

The two countries needed to work together in the search for solutions to international political and economic problems, he said. The message he was carrying to Tokyo in the

talks beginning today was "it's time for our two countries to open a new chapter in the relations between them, to forge a new partnership."

Today he will see the Prime Minister, Mr Noboru Takeshita.

Over a television conference link-up with Tokyo on Saturday, Sir Geoffrey told Mr Akio Morita of Sony, who built his British factory at Bridgford, that there were now 72 key Japanese investments in Britain.

Sir Geoffrey was barely off the plane in this southern prefecture before he was urging cheaper air fares as a means of promoting closer contacts, noting that London-Tokyo air fares were equivalent

to nine times the price per mile of those between London and New York.

The need for all countries to abandon agricultural protectionism came up several times as he toured a rural prefecture which is trying to discourage any further increase in the size of Japan's "rice mountain."

It was not only rice, for which the Japanese consumer pays eight times the world price, that was on his mind. In Japan the consumer also pays nine times the world price for sugar and six times the world price for wheat. "That is Japan's manifestation of the problems of too much protectionism for agriculture. We've all got to change," he said.

Vote sparks Karachi riots

From Zahid Hussain, Karachi

Troops were called out in several districts of Karachi yesterday morning after three people had been killed and 25 injured in a night of rioting.

The violence followed a victory march by supporters of the nationalist Mohajir Movement, whose candidates were elected mayor and deputy mayor of Pakistan's biggest city on Saturday.

Clashes between two rival ethnic groups broke out when thousands of young people carrying MQM flags set several petrol pumps and vehicles on fire and blocked roads in the city's central and eastern districts. The driver of a district magistrate was shot dead in north Karachi and a taxi driver was lynched.

At least 15 people were injured in armed clashes between the MQM supporters

and rival ethnic groups in Patel Para district, central Karachi and Shah Faisal Colony in east Karachi.

The clashes continued in Gulbhar and Patel Para in central Karachi, yesterday morning and crowds blocked traffic in many parts of the city.

On Saturday the Mohajir-dominated Karachi Metropolitan Corporation elected unopposed Dr Farooq Sattar, a medical graduate aged 26, and Raziq Khan, a lawyer, as mayor and deputy mayor.

Last week a Mohajir nominee was elected mayor of another Sind city, Hyderabad. With these two cities now under its control, the MQM, a militant nationalist organization of Urdu-speaking refugees from India, has become an important force in Sind.

Greece blocks Turkey's Aegean claim

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

Greece will today block what it sees as an attempt by Turkey to promote its claims over a large area of the Aegean Sea. It will reject as "politically motivated" a proposal by Ankara that it should begin providing search-and-rescue services over areas of the sea covered at present by Athens.

The issue demonstrates that, even at a time when talks between the Greek and Turkish Prime Ministers are on the cards, the Aegean dispute remains as sensitive as ever.

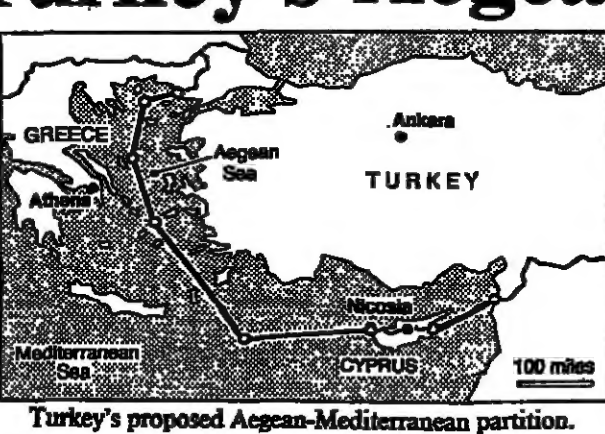
A Greek government letter is to be distributed to embassies in London today by the International Maritime Organization, which regulates the areas patrolled by different countries under a 1979 convention.

It responds to a map filed

with the IMO in October which showed the areas over which Turkey proposes to provide cover. The boundaries are almost identical to those of the Aegean continental shelf area which Ankara claims.

The Greek reply states that these areas "constitute overwhelming evidence of sovereign Greek territory" and calls the Turkish plan "unrealistic". Greek sources see the Turkish proposal as an attempt to reintroduce by the back door its long-stalled efforts to change the map of the Aegean.

Nearly all the Aegean islands close to the Turkish coast are Greek-owned, with the result that the median line between Greek and Turkish waters is in places only two miles from the Turkish coast. The same line is recognized by the International Civil Avi-



Turkey's proposed Aegean-Mediterranean partition. Airmen) just before Turkish troops occupied Northern Cyprus.

Athens replied by declaring the Aegean a danger zone, which effectively closed all air corridors across it. In 1980 Turkey withdrew its "Notas" (Notices) and flights across

the Aegean resumed, but it continued to show that it had not abandoned its long-term claim. Turkish military aircraft continued to overfly the dozens of Greek islands in the disputed waters. Athens treats these incidents as infringements of its airspace.

Greece and Turkey came close to a military confrontation early last year in a row over oil-drilling rights in international waters. The incident was prompted by a misunderstanding of Greek government moves to secure a majority holding in the North Aegean Petroleum Company. As the company had declared an intention to drill outside Greek territorial waters, this was thought in Ankara to mean that Athens was about to start treating the disputed continental shelf as its own territory.

National Front leader rallies troops for presidential battle

Le Pen adopts new image but far right keeps a savage face

Grey-faced with fatigue, his voice hoarse and cracking, Jean-Marie Le Pen stood beneath a single spotlight on the darkened stage.

Behind him were the emblem of his ultra-right-wing National Front party and a huge montage proclaiming "Le Pen, President."

Several thousand of his most fervent supporters chanted his name, cheered and stamped their feet. Arms raised aloft, their leader saluted them for the last time.

In an immaculately orchestrated finale yesterday, the party launched M Le Pen on the last stage of his campaign for France's presidential election in the spring. It was the climax of a weekend in which the sharply contrasting faces of the National Front were on public display.

At the magnificent Acropolis Centre, prosperous-looking men, many in smoking (dinner jacket), and their fashionably dressed wives sat appreciatively through a Beethoven piano recital. At the Nice war memorial next morning, party members decorated for their service to France paraded with regimental banners dipped to honour the nation's dead.

And at the Acropolis, as speaker after speaker lambasted the delegates assembled to honour M Le Pen, the raw and disturbing countenance was on display as never before. North African immigrants, Communists, intellectuals, the liberal press, *la classe politique* all received a ritual savaging for conspiring

From Philip Jacobson, Nice

to cast down what the front's leader defines as "the true and only France".

His vision is what the believers came to Nice, mostly at their own expense, to hear proclaimed. For the moment, all worries about the continuing slump in National Front support — down from 15 per cent to single figures in the past few months — were swept away by the populist fervour that the beaming M Le Pen, sporting his much-discussed new hairstyle, arouses so effortlessly.

The central theme of the Nice convention was "a man, the forces that sustain him, the ideas that inspire him", and a new booklet called *Passport for Victory* filled in the background for the uninitiated.

With new proposals for tackling the extremely sensitive issue of immigrants' rights to French citizenship published last week, it was instructive to find the National Front posing the following elementary equation. "If there are 500,000 illegal immigrants in France, how long would it take to send them all home on charter flights seating 101 people?" The answer: "More than 15 years".

This is by no means the only swipe M Le Pen takes at the policies of the present conservative Government of M Jacques Chirac. The National Front, for all its obsession with the "Red peril", will be gunning primarily for the rival candidates of the right in the forthcoming election.

The Chirac Government is

already busily outflanking M Le Pen with a high-profile campaign on law and order, from street crime to terrorism. The objective is to confine his support to the hard-core National Front pool.

M Le Pen, alert to this threat, appears to be trimming furiously. The official biography handed out at Nice makes no mention of his previous and widely denied claim to have been active in the French Resistance in his early teens. There is no mention, either, of the candidate's estranged wife, the vivacious Pierrette.

Although M Le Pen kept his nerve when she posed for a girlie magazine in a drastically abbreviated maid's uniform, Pierrette is dogging his footsteps ominously. She has now made allegations — firmly denied — that he has illegally siphoned away a small fortune in a numbered Swiss account.

One of M Le Pen's articles of faith is that many French are keeping quiet about their intention to vote National Front for fear of being branded as racists. But do these shadowy supporters really exist? Perhaps in southern cities and towns such as Nice.

Yet recent national opinion polls suggest that almost two-thirds of the population believe that the front, with its turbulent MPs and ubiquitous crop-haired and blazered muscled, represents a threat to French democracy. Nothing that took place in Nice is likely to have changed their minds.



Extremism's would-be acceptable face: M Le Pen, with a new hairstyle, taking the sun and the plaudits on the Promenade des Anglais in Nice yesterday. (Photograph: Chris Harris)

Tough Korea law enforces Aids test on bar girls

From Gavin Bell, Seoul

Thousands of young women in Seoul carry unusual identity cards in their handbags. Each bears their photograph, a series of ink stamps, and a warning in English: "Remember — if the stamp is red, don't take her to bed; if the stamp is blue, it's up to you — but be careful!"

The girls are prostitutes and the stamps indicate the results of weekly tests for venereal diseases. Soon many will be issued with new cards attesting to whether they have succumbed to a more deadly infection — Aids.

Although barely affected by the disease, South Korea has acted firmly, and some would say harshly, to prevent it from spreading. Recently it became the first country to introduce specific anti-Aids legislation.

Under the Prevention of Aids law, victims and virus carriers may be imprisoned for three years for unauthorized sexual activity. Tests are obligatory, twice a year, for prostitutes, bar hostesses and employees of night clubs, and the authorities may isolate Aids sufferers.

Dr Lee Sung Woon, director-general of the Bureau of Public Health, believes the legislation is necessary to prevent an epidemic. "Other countries do not understand why we are taking such strict steps. Some say they are discriminatory and inhuman, but we are trying to help Aids victims. If we do not control them, within a few years we may have thousands more."

In the past two years 12 people have been tested positive for the Human Immunodeficiency Virus, meaning they have been infected by the disease. Eight were prostitutes and three were men working in Seoul. Dr Lee said: "The incidence in Korea is small, but it is doubling every year. We may not succeed in stopping it spreading with this law because there are factors, such as sexual activity, which we cannot check. But we are sure we can inhibit it."

"The prostitutes are effectively banned from their profession. As for the married men, we ask them to refrain from sex if possible or to wear a condom. If any of them are found to have ignored our advice, the law allows us to segregate them, but we hope this will not be necessary. It is simply a preventive measure."

Not everybody in Korea favours the new law. Its critics include Dr Heesun Cha, director of the Yongsan-Ku public health centre in Seoul, who devotes most of her time to helping and advising the city's estimated 20,000 prostitutes.

"I don't like it. It infringes on human rights, and anyway it will be difficult to enforce. How do they know if somebody is having sex?"

A problem for Dr Cha is that prostitution is illegal, making it impossible to keep track of bar girls and street walkers. Yet every week more than 70 of them attend lectures at her clinic on sexually transmitted diseases, and her staff have conducted 4,000 Aids tests in the past two years.

The message, whether by the Government's radical legislation or by Dr Cha's more sympathetic approach, appears to have reached the "Hot Love Bar" in Incheon, a red-light district of Seoul.

There Yum, a hospitality girl, admitted: "I'm scared, but I like my job and I don't like to go prison, so every time I check my body in hospital. You want to see my card?" The peevish warning was there but, as yet, no assurance that Yum was not dying of Aids.

Burmese blame Karens for train blast

Bangkok — The Burmese Government has blamed Karen rebels for the bomb which killed eight passengers and injured 35 on the express train from Mandalay to Rangoon (Neil Kelly writes).

The incident coincided with reports of serious setbacks to the Burmese Army's new campaign against the Karens and a smaller rebel group in eastern Burma, the Karenis. Reports from Thai intelligence and rebel sources say that reinforcements have had to be sent to two Burmese battalions, about 2,000 men, trapped in remote mountains east of the Salween river.

London link in drugs charge

Athens — Two London-based Greek Cypriots, and three Greek seamen, have been charged with drug trafficking, after police stormed a seaside hotel room and found 1 kg of heroin, valued at \$55,000, hidden inside an orthopaedic corset.

The room was occupied by Mr Paul Andronikou, aged 41, a London restaurant owner, and Mr Loukas Andreou, aged 67, both Cypriots living in London.

"Spy" held

Cairo (Reuters) — Mr Ali Abdel-Hamid Subhelbad, an Egyptian teacher, has been arrested on charges of spying for Israel.

Robbers to die

Amman (Reuters) — Nasser Muhammad Ali and Ahmed Salim Jumaa have been sentenced to death by a military court for murdering a money-changer in Amman during an armed robbery.

Seven killed

Bogotá (Reuters) — Gunmen stormed a house outside the Colombian city of Medellín and abducted seven people whose bullet-ridden bodies were later found near by.

Sea scourge

Amsterdam (Reuters) — The Netherlands, battling a 100-ton oil slick which has killed thousands of seabirds and polluted beaches, has called for international co-operation to trace and prosecute those who dump oil illegally in the North Sea.

Kidney offer

Palermo (Reuters) — Maurizio Bondini, aged 23, a penniless Italian awaiting trial for murder has offered to donate a kidney for transplant in exchange for the services of a defence lawyer.

Pilot saved

Reykjavik (AP) — Ares Klootwijk, a British pilot of Dutch extraction, was rescued from the North Atlantic after the single-engine plane he was ferrying from the US to Europe ran out of fuel and crashed off the western coast of Iceland.

Test of glasnost in Moscow meeting of independent left

From Christopher Walker, Moscow

The Kremlin's policy of glasnost will face a critical test at the end of this month when leaders of the country's mushrooming left-wing discussion and political clubs intend to stage a three-day conference in Moscow with guests from foreign left-wing organizations.

One of the three organizers, Mr Boris Kagalitsky, told *The Times* yesterday: "As yet the authorities have not accepted our conditions for the conference, which will be the acid test of their attitude to the groups. If they refuse us official sanction, we still plan to go ahead with the conference anyway."

Leaders of the controversial National Federation of Socialist Public Clubs, set up last August at the first public

meeting of the groups — which are not linked to the ruling Communist Party, but at the same time claim not to be dissident — have been negotiating with leaders of the Komsomol, the party's main youth organization.

"Last week they gave us permission, but imposed conditions which were unacceptable," said Mr Kagalitsky, who served 13 months as a political prisoner during the Brezhnev era. "We have now sent them a document with conditions which we insist must be met. We hope that we will receive the official go-ahead, but if not, we have our own contingency plans."

Although the new *Informal* (unofficial) groups were originally encouraged by the

Kremlin, they fell out of favour when they organized demonstrations over the sacking of the Moscow Communist Party chief, Mr Boris Yeltsin.

Mr Kagalitsky is a member of the Moscow-based Club for Social Initiatives. He said that delegates from 40 Soviet clubs and groups and 10 from foreign organizations had been invited to the conference, due to be held between January 28 and 31.

In recent weeks, there have been increasing signs of a conservative backlash against the activities of the clubs, particularly their plans to field candidates in elections for local soviets (councils) and to try to organize free trade unions.

Mr Alexander Dubcek, the disgraced Czechoslovak leader, launched an astonishing comeback attempt yesterday by granting his first detailed interview with a Western newspaper since Soviet tanks crushed the Prague Spring in 1968.

The interview with the Italian Communist newspaper, *l'Unità*, laid bare some of the profound differences between reformers and the Old Guard in the Gorbachov era. It is also a serious embarrassment for the new Czechoslovak Communist Party leader, Mr Milo Jakes, who arrives in Moscow today.

Mr Dubcek, aged 66, who is now a retired forestry worker, sides openly with Mr Mikhail Gorbachov in the interview

Prague Spring hero praises Gorbachov

From Roger Boyes, Rome

and in his most telling phrase says that a Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia would be "unthinkable" today. Although he does not make a direct attack on Mr Jakes, or his predecessor, Mr Gustav Husak, ousted on December 17 last year, Mr Dubcek makes plain that the Communist Party needs a complete overhaul.

He calls for his own rehabilitation, and those of thousands of other party leaders who after the quashing of his reforms were expelled and forced to take jobs as window cleaners, stokers and nightwatchmen.

A call for rehabilitation is an obvious shot at Mr Jakes, who was responsible for examining the 480,000 dos-

siers on Czechoslovak Communist Party members after the Soviet-led invasion. He was the leader of the great purge and responsible for the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Communists.

But Mr Dubcek, who lives quietly with his wife in a cottage in Bratislava, evidently wants to do more than set the record straight. The interview — given on December 19 last year, two days after the accession of the new party leader — is an attempt to stake out the reformist position and ensure that Mr Jakes does not fob off the country with cosmetic changes.

To protect himself from arrest, Mr Dubcek constantly invokes the guardian spirit of

Mr Gorbachov and has chosen a Communist Party organ for his comments.

Quotations from the interview include:

● Would it have been possible to avoid the military intervention in 1968? "Today we know that it would not have been possible, that it was not in the power of the Czechoslovaks... But quite frankly I can say that, if the Soviet Communist Party had the leaders it has today, then the invasion would have been unthinkable."

● Mr Dubcek describes the Gorbachov reforms as "irresponsible." They are "not identical (with his own reforms), but there are notable similarities."

CIA cash funds Afghan rebels at war — and on holiday

By Edward Gorman

A crucial element in any peace solution for Afghanistan under discussion at next month's Geneva talks will be whether the United States is prepared to end its aid programme to the Mujahidin resistance, the CIA's biggest covert commitment.

The Soviet Union has long argued that it would be willing to pull out of Afghanistan, provided that the US and other Western governments are prepared to stop supplying the guerrillas with millions of dollars worth of weapons and non-military assistance. The Americans provided an estimated \$710 million (£394 million) in military and humanitarian aid to the Mujahidin for fiscal year 1987, and observers in Washington believe this is to be expanded in 1988.

Of the 1987 budget, \$670 million consisted of weapons ranging from small arms and Kalashnikov assault rifles to RPG7 rocket-propelled grenades and highly sophisticated Stinger anti-aircraft missiles. A covert programme run by the US Agency for International Development, Usaid, to supply non-military assistance inside Afghanistan totalled \$30 million, and \$10 million was supplied under the so-called McCollum Amendment, allowing for the delivery of non-lethal US Army surplus supplies.

The distribution point for much of this material is Peshawar, the sprawling and chaotic capital of Pakistan's North West Frontier Province, where President Zia has allowed the seven principal resistance parties to base themselves.

It has become quite the thing in

Peshawar these days to find leading guerrilla commanders living in the fashionable University Town suburb in sumptuous villas, replete with the latest in televisions, videos and microwaves, or driving new Mercedes cars and even taking their holidays in the US. On a recent visit to Nangarhar Province in eastern Afghanistan, one Western journalist was astounded to find that an attack on the Afghan Army's local garrison was cancelled because the Mujahidin commander was in Florida.

Jamrud road — which is known locally as the Sunset Strip and links the centre of Peshawar with University Town — is lined with thriving local businesses which would have been unthinkable even five years ago. Fast-food restaurants, ice-cream parlours, video rental stores and dozens of car and truck dealerships are flourishing on the business of war. In the old bazaars in the city centre, traders have set up shop selling US Army combat gear — flak jackets, rucksacks and full camouflage suits — all siphoned off.

As far as weapons go, observers in Peshawar and Islamabad estimate that probably only half — at most three-quarters — reach the battle front, the rest either being sold off by Pakistani officials or resistance elements. Last year, in the most dramatic case, two rogue commanders were accused of selling Stinger missiles to Iran for more than \$1 million.

The Americans, trying to put a brave face on an acutely embarrassing situation, argued that "leakage" of this kind was inevitable and was the acceptable price to

be paid for helping the resistance. But more experienced aid veterans in Peshawar believe this incident was merely the tip of an iceberg.

The picture is even worse on the humanitarian side. Two years ago, Usaid set up office in Islamabad to launch a programme of so-called "non-lethal aid" for Afghans living and fighting inside the country. As has been their policy throughout the war, the Pakistanis insisted that the distribution be handled by the resistance parties. Consequently — and to the mounting frustration of Usaid officials — as little as 15 per cent is thought to be reaching the interior.

Last year, for example, Usaid earmarked \$15 million to ship 47,000 tonnes of wheat into Afghanistan over two years. Relief representatives in Peshawar now believe that almost all of the wheat was sold in the bazaars of Baluchistan and North West Frontier Province. Independent relief organizations have also questioned the wisdom of the programme and others like it that could threaten the delicate balance of a war economy which, despite claims to the contrary by the Americans, has succeeded in starving off widespread famine.

US policy also runs the risk that the programme has flooded Pakistan with weapons, most of which have gone to the many opponents to the Zia regime. The CIA has spent billions of dollars bolstering Pakistan as its principal regional ally, but has also created the conditions for the regime's destruction.

Warning to Americans of aid abuses

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

An attempt to warn the American public of suspected abuses of aid given to the dominant Mujahidin group in Afghanistan is to be made by the wife of a missing British cameraman.

Chris Gregory, a journalist, returned to Britain at the weekend after travelling to Pakistan in an effort to establish whether her husband, Andy Skrzyptowski, was alive or dead. She said yesterday that she was fairly sure, but still not certain, that he had been killed. "I think Andy has been shot and buried in Kantawa Pass," she said.

Her inquiries led her to suspect, but not prove, that the killers were supporters of Mr Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who leads a radical faction of

the Hizbi-Islami. Part of their motive, she believes, was to prevent her husband from providing further favourable publicity for a rival Mujahidin group.

Although the seven main parties in the Mujahidin alliance are united in the fight against Soviet occupation, there are increasing signs of jockeying for position to dominate the post-Soviet government in Kabul.

She said that the deaths or disappearance of six aid workers and journalists in the last 12 months were thought to be linked to Hizbi-Islami radicals. As the group appeared to be receiving large amounts of US aid indirectly through Pakistan, it was vital to alert American public opinion to

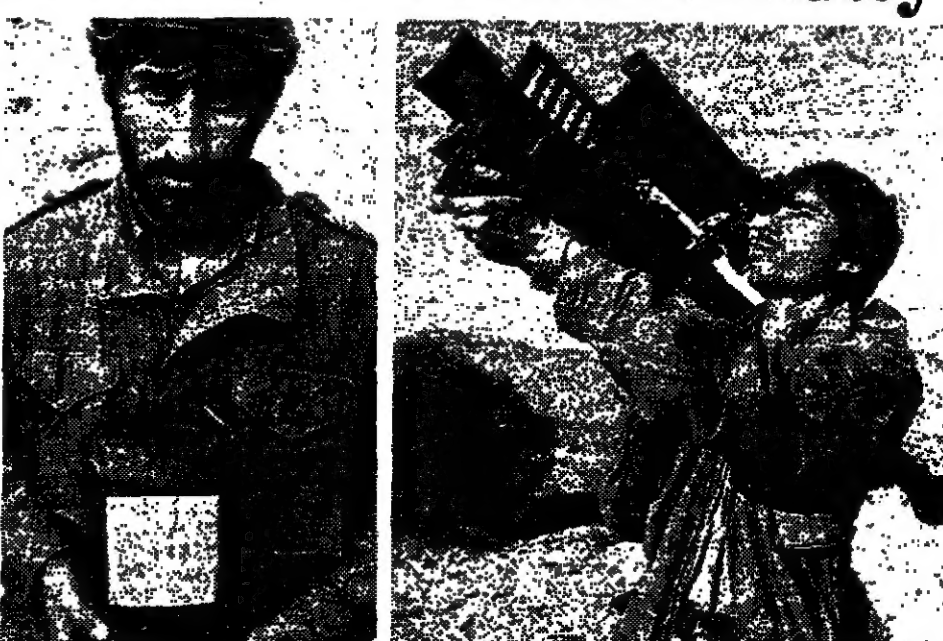
the deaths. She hopes to travel to Washington with the couple's daughter, Shanoor, aged two, to meet US congressmen.

While in Pakistan, she and British diplomats made unsuccessful attempts to obtain access to possible evidence. She said that four men said to have been seen arguing with her husband just before his disappearance 2½ months ago were arrested after being found carrying large sums of money. She asked to see their possessions to check whether they included any of her husband's belongings. The Pakistani authorities at first agreed, but then failed to produce the items.

Mr Skrzyptowski, aged 36, served with the SAS before making 12 trips into Afghanistan to make television films. On each trip he carried her wedding ring on a chain around his neck.

"The irony is that he was superhuman, legendary, more Afghan than the Afghans," she said. "He would run 10 miles a day in Afghanistan carrying his equipment and would do two hours' weight-training a day to keep up his strength."

"Yet he feared death terribly, and would wake up in the middle of the night frightened. He was motivated by fear and a deep hatred of the Russians. He knew that one day he would be killed in Afghanistan, but he kept thinking it would be the trip after next."



A Mujahidin fighter with US clothing and food and, right, another aiming a Stinger missile.

Advanced American weapons have assisted the Mujahidin resistance in Afghanistan, as John Gunston found on a recent visit to the war zone.

Sprawled over his US Defence Department map, General Robin Wards discussed with his commanders his plan for Operation Lightning, the opposing forces marked up in Nato military symbols.

A radio handset chattered as various units called in, reporting states of readiness. On a rock above, a guard armed with an M16 rifle stood alert, while near by a Stinger missile team scanned the sky. Camouflage jackets displayed the labels of the US Army, Air Force and Marines.

This was not an American military unit, though the kit almost disguised it as such. These were the Mujahidin in the mountains above the Afghan capital, Kabul. Their appearance, as well as their mission, was a tangible result of the vast amount of US aid now reaching them.

An array of sophisticated weaponry has been channelled through the Pakistani military to the Mujahidin, in a programme that has altered the course of the war. Stinger missiles are largely respon-



More US equipment: An M16 rifle and camouflage jacket.

sible, forcing the Soviet and Afghan air forces to fly high, allowing the Mujahidin to travel again in the day.

Frequency-hopping radios have given the Mujahidin secure battlefield communications, while burst-communication radios allow them to speak directly to their military command in Pakistan. The significance of the radio equipment is great — for the first time the Mujahidin are mounting large-scale co-ordinated operations.

US Army surplus clothing, sleeping bags, ration packs

and 2,000 mules from Tennessee have given the Mujahidin the capability of re-occupying areas which were depopulated by force. Night-sights for Stingers are expected to arrive soon, and "Baby Viper," a rocket-propelled explosive-filled hose which detonates mines, will reduce the enormous casualties the Mujahidin suffer from mines during attacks.

However, despite the vast amounts of money spent equipping the Mujahidin, many fighters still remain largely untrained in basic military skills.

SPECTRUM

Britain's business on the move

As the South-east grows increasingly crowded, more firms are deciding it is time to move out. William Greaves discovers what happened when one large company said farewell to Trafalgar Square

No sooner had the light van been unloaded of its cargo of boxes than a mighty Pickford's wagon moved in to take its place. Delivery drivers in overalls waited patiently for their instructions. "What's that? — Oh yes, that goes through there... Upstairs with those, please... Haven't a clue, just drop it there a mo, I'll go and ask."

It was a scene familiar to anyone who has ever moved house — a pride in new surroundings mingled with uncertainty about what goes where, a touch of nostalgia and an unspoken prayer that it will prove to be a happy home.

This was, however, no ordinary family upheaval from city centre street corner to a place in the country. Shell Chemicals UK was putting the finishing touches to an industrial odyssey which, in the past few weeks, has seen 150 employees say farewell to offices overlooking London's Trafalgar Square, head off into the unknown across the dreaded North-South divide and set up camp in a new headquarters on the outskirts of medieval Chester.

For the company, which had been planning the exercise since 1985 — when its Northumberland Avenue headquarters proved unadaptable to the computer age and too far from both its suppliers and customers — the move made sound common sense. For its workforce, it was an enforced migration — a search for new schools, houses, doctors, shops, pubs, friends, bus routes and what to do on a Saturday night.

Some of those being moved were single young men and women. Most were one half of a married couple. And the large majority of those couples had children, either at home or at school. In war-time Britain it used to be called evacuation. In the modern commercial world, its name is relocation.

There had been rumours and rumblings of a move to somewhere in the north of England for months, but no one had taken them particularly seriously. Then, one day in mid-September last year, the announcement was made. It felt like a bombshell.

Peter Scammell, national sales manager, was away on business and his wife, Di, was at home in



The Scammell family and their new house: for the price of their old home "we could have bought a palace"

"I can understand people being afraid to leave the southern stream but it's rubbish — you must take your chance"

Ashted, Surrey, when the phone rang. It was her father-in-law to say: "So, you're off to Chester."

"I didn't know what he was talking about until he told me he'd just seen it on the television news," Di says. Her four-days-a-week job at the local health clinic and her membership of the local bowls club, for which she had striven for months, would soon be coming to an end. Peter smiles wistfully at the recollection. "I think if ever they do it again, they'll break it a bit more gently at the start," he says with masterly diplomacy.

Karen Goulden, whose husband Pete is a £16,500-a-year data manager with the company, had given birth to their first son just a day or two earlier. "The timing was pretty terrible," she says. "I took it badly. We'd moved south from Manchester six years earlier, and I didn't want to go north again. All my family had come to live in the South — the weather was better, we were happy."

Neither the Scammells nor the Gouldens, however, gave serious

thought to rebellion. But for many others the prospect of a future home in Cheshire, 200 miles or more from the booming property prices of the South-east, was sufficient for them to resign outright or take severance pay and go in search of other work in the London area.

The company is cagey about statistics but admits that its target of taking 85 per cent of the London workforce to Chester was only achieved by some swapping of unwilling migrants with volunteers from other divisions of Shell. "It would be wrong to suggest that the 150 who came north represented 85 per cent of the staff who were with us in September, 1986," says a spokesman. The inference is clear enough. More — probably many more — than 15 out of every hundred employees preferred an uncertain future on the Home Counties job market to a secure future on Decade.

"As soon as the announcement

was made, people started coming with their individual problems," John Wellings, the relocation manager, recalls. "Some were genuine but others simply didn't want to move — in their own hearts they didn't want a solution to their difficulty. If we'd opened up with discussions, instead of a statement of intent, we'd still be talking now. It was, I think, the fear of the unknown."

So how did those initial fears compare with the reality of a new life in the North-west? For Paul Taylor, a 24-year-old personnel services assistant, and his wife Lorraine, it has meant the exchange of a one-bedroom flat in Luton (sale price £39,500) for a three-bedroom semi in the village of Waverton (cost £40,000) and a dream come true. Lorraine has traded her job with the Inland Revenue for one as a taxation assistant with a firm of accountants. "We were never ones for the London bright lights," Paul says. "And we always knew we had to move if we were going to make anything of our lives."

Even Sheila Ridgwell, a 31-year-old business analyst, with an admitted love for London entertainment, has taken the move philosophically. "It means a long drive to Manchester if I want to go to the theatre, instead of being on the doorstep of everything as soon as I finish work, but when I took the job I knew I had to be prepared to be mobile." And, like the Taylors, she now has a three-bedroom semi — also in Waverton — instead of her one-bedroom flat in Croydon.

A born-and-bred Southerner, she agrees with the general view that "the people up here are much more friendly".

Karen Goulden would agree with that. "I wanted a Christmas tree which didn't drop its needles, and when the shopkeeper said he only stocked ordinary ones he drew me a map to show me where I could get one," she says. But she admits that the nightmare of the move is only just beginning to recede.

"We'd sold our house near Reading and the one we'd bought

THE REFUSENIKS — WHAT THEY COST

The refusal of thousands of workers to move home to another part of the country — often in spite of promotion and salary increases — is currently costing British industry £500 million a year, according to a recent survey. Two-thirds of firms which have moved, or considered doing so, report "strong opposition" from the workforce.

Nell Culliford, general manager of Homequity, the Swindon-based relocation consultancy which commissioned the survey, says: "House prices are a problem. People moving from the South fear that they will never be able to afford to come back again, while people moving the other way find the prices to be simply too high."

"This is also a time when there are often two wage earners in a family and if one moves the other has a choice between job and marriage. But most of all it is just a fear of an unknown locality."

The cost to an employer of one refusal to move is estimated at between £3,000 and £4,000 a head — made up of advertising for a

suitable replacement, time spent interviewing and the absence for a while of the right person in the right job.

"The best answer is for a firm to start its plans at least two years in advance, set up permanent exhibitions of information about the new area, arrange frequent fact-finding trips and generally to ease both the shock and the burden," Culliford says.

See Shortland, relocation expert for the Confederation of British Industry, confirms the problem. "For every two people who move, one refuses," she says.

"Companies are partly to blame. They tend not to sell a region's assets too well and people are left with the wrong perception."

The public as well as the private sector have to face the problems of relocation as the process of decentralisation continues — it was announced last week that the Customs and Excise and the Ministry of Defence will be among a number of Government departments leaving their London premises.

few. "I can understand people's fears of getting out of the southern stream but it's really rubbish, you know — you've just got to take your chances when they come."

As a £28,000-a-year senior executive, the only real problem the move created was an enviable one. "Our house is on the market for £285,000 and if we were to have spent that amount up here, we would have ended up with some sort of a palace which we could never afford to heat."

So the Scammells, both 44, and their three boys, one in his second year at Liverpool University and the other two now at the local comprehensive school, have settled for a rambling, five-bedroom house at Herwell, with just under an acre of garden, overlooking the River Dee to the Welsh mountains beyond — at exactly half the price.

Even the loss of Di's bowls club membership and her clinic job — "I really felt I was doing something to help the community" — has been taken in their stride. "We've joined the local sailing club, Peter's helping out with the Scouts and I'm doing a bit with the school PTA," she says. "Although I thought it would be quite nice not to have to work for a while, I've fallen into a part-time job at the local dress shop."

Were there no clouds on their new horizon? Peter thought for a moment. "Believe it or not, it's several times harder to park a car in Chester than it is in London," he says.

After producing four videos and countless pamphlets on the region, fixing meetings with estate agents and health and education departments, paying removal expenses and arranging mortgages and bridging loans, if parking proves to be the only long-term disadvantage of life in Cheshire, then Shell Chemicals UK will doubtless be glad they chose to move home.

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The Gouldens: living closer to work now leaves more time for family life

The civil war in Whitehall

John Ellis, the moderate leader of the largest Civil Service union, will be going into battle tomorrow to prevent a supporter of Militant taking over as national organizer

Hostility between Militant and moderates in Britain's largest Civil Service union will be heightened at a crucial executive meeting tomorrow.

John Ellis, the mild mannered, moderate leader of the Civil and Public Services Association, has savagely and untypically hit out at his opponents. "The Militant tendency are using Fascist tactics in trying to humiliate moderates out of the union through intimidation and thuggery. This time they have gone too far. They have now made it clear that we are meant to rubber stamp the appointment of their supporters and we will not."

But at tomorrow's meeting, Ellis will be under pressure from the whole of his executive to ratify the disputed appointment of a Militant to the key post of national organizer.



Kevin Roddy: "Unrepentant, full-blooded socialist"

A quiet Yorkshireman, always impeccably dressed with matching tie and handkerchief, Ellis is not prone to shouting from the hip, but the attempt by the union's Militants to appoint Kevin Roddy as national organizer, after appointing three other Mil-

itant supporters as assistant secretaries, appears to have been the final straw for him.

Eddie Spence, who is credited with building up the Tendency in Liverpool where he worked in the Department of Health and Social Security, has been appointed assistant secretary responsible for union members at the Home Office. Frank Bomer, a staunch supporter of the Militant-led broad left for the past decade, was appointed assistant secretary of the Department for National Savings and Land Registry. And Graham Corbett, closely identified with the Militant-led broad left although not a member, was appointed assistant secretary in charge of race relations.

The association's executive is already dominated by Militants; the broad left control 18 of the 25 places. Yet their hold is precarious. Elections are held every April and if the association's history is anything to go by the Militants could lose: the electorate is notoriously volatile, giving the left a clear sweep one year, the right the next. Full-time officers are traditionally appointed for life: only conference can sack a union official. The broad left hope to have Roddy as national organizer early next year.

Roddy calls himself an "unrepentant, full-blooded socialist" who believes that civil servants will only get a better pay rise through an all-out national strike. A former president and executive member, he told members in his election address: "I always proudly describe myself as a Militant supporter. Militants and socialists are the best



No minister: civil servants picketing Whitehall last summer

fighters for ordinary members". He has said his association with Militant started in the mid-Sixties when he realized that traditional Labour politics would not help ordinary working people. When he was 16, he joined the Department of Health and Social Security's central processing centre at Newcastle upon Tyne and assiduously spent years building up Militant's organization.

A butcher's son, Roddy is aged 38 and married with two children. He works at the child benefit office in Washington, Co Durham, which ironically, recently voted for a no-strike deal. Roddy insists he will be working for the union, and resents allegations that he puts political ideology before the interests of the rank and file.

But Ellis believes he is a "vindictive man" who is "wholly unsuited to being a

full-time official". He fears that as Head of Organization, Roddy would be in an unrivalled position to pursue Militant's aims.

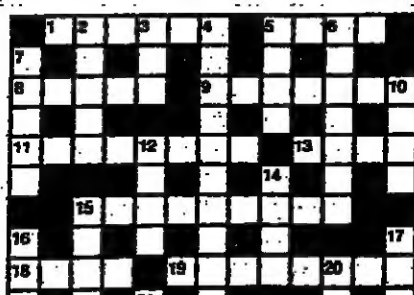
The Militants agree the post is crucial. Roddy would be able to recruit and organize in all the union departments, which includes members at the Ministry of Defence, the Home Office, the Inland Revenue and departments of Health and Social Security and Employment.

Last year, Michael Heseltine, the former defence secretary, warned of the security dangers of Militant supporters working in the Ministry of Defence. The moderate group allege that Roddy would use his position to insert sufficient numbers of Militants in key positions — and Heseltine's warning would be justified.

Roland Rudd

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5 Deep red (4)
8 Show film again (5)
9 Rustic (7)
11 Curves (8)
13 1760 yards (4)
15 Israel's first PM (3-6)
18 Insect punned (4)
19 Zaire capital (8)
22 Lottery (7)
23 Screen (5)
24 Indigo (4)
25 Herald's jacket (6)



DOWN
2 Earth (5)
3 Hostelry (3)
4 Silent posing group (7,5)
6 Loose screw (4)
6 Gold/silver bars (7)
7 Anger (5)
10 Music pitch symbol (4)

12 Bury (4)
14 Light touch (4)
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Random facts

A party with Jack Nicholson has become one of the legal hiccups dogging the forthcoming US publication of a book by Richard Rayner, *LA Without a Map*. The work, for which American Random House agreed a \$30,000 advance, was set for publication this summer in its non-fiction travel series. Departures, after publication in Britain by Secker & Warburg, who paid a £7,500 advance. But when RH's lawyers took a look at some of the incidents depicted, including the tale of an Englishman having an affair with a Playboy Bunny and the supposed scene with Nicholson, they drew back, worried about possible libel. Rayner, now writing for *Granta*, is represented in the US by Andrew "Tough Nut" Wyllie, the American partner in the London-based literary agency, Aitken & Stone. The author is unrepentant: "I told them there were no libel problems because those incidents were made up. Random House, a dinosaur of an organization, hasn't twigged the liberties travel writers now take. They should have expected what I delivered since they read the synopsis and drafts. It's fairly P.G. Wodehouse on speed."

Soldiering on

One of the latest departures in the post-election exodus from Downing Street, which includes John O'Sullivan and Stephen Sherbourne (made a CBE in the New Year's Honours) is Norman Blackwell. A special adviser to Mrs Thatcher, he has rejoined management consultant McKinsey & Co, from which he was seconded 18 months ago. Blackwell was an architect of the government's policy to make private-sector involvement the key to inner-city renewal. Far from abandoning the problems of the twilight zones, he will lead for six months the team of 14 company chairmen and chief executives that McKinsey has set up to assist the CBI urban regeneration task-force. With the FMs' rallying call for captains of industry to follow in the footsteps of the altruistic Victorian forefathers, the industrialists, led by Tom Frost of NatWest, are drawing up a blueprint for a bigger and better private-sector effort to be presented to the next CBI conference in November.

At least Davos has seen snow. Twenty-four British parliamentarians took advantage of the resort's good fortune to race and beat for the first time in 13 years a team of Swiss counterparts. Led by Winston Churchill, the team won by the narrowest of margins, 11.13 seconds, with the help of MP newcomers Malcolm Ross, James Arbuthnot, Rupert Allason and David Tredinnick. And no homes were broken.

Dial-a-leak

With all the millions spent on national security it is alarming to learn that a simple BT gramline can make Peter Wright look like your obedient servant. Or almost. The other day a reader who was bleated to contact his voicebank - a British Telecom electronic answering machine - was surprised to hear not a message for himself but a two-way conversation between Tim and Caroline about "the Secretary of State's appointment" at 11.15 the following day. Terrorist organizations are probably subscribing even now.

BARRY FANTONI



"The operation's urgent - I'll have to refer you to a fund raiser"

Breaking point

Taxmen are not renowned for their sense of humour but someone at America's Internal Revenue Service was exercising his imagination when he commissioned a series of television commercials to be aired ahead of the April 15 tax return deadline. One shows a tardy taxpayer at home watching television when the wind starts howling and eerie music builds up. "You try to relax but you can feel a presence", a spectral voice warns as a blinding light flashes through the room in horror-movie tradition. "It's there, waiting for you. Yes, you've created an unreal entry of awe-some power... All because you put off doing your taxes until the last minute." Another shows a haunted taxpayer in bed being terrorized by flying tax returns while a third depicts a prison door clanging shut and the voiceover: "We know who you are." There are some ideas that shouldn't cross the Atlantic.

PHS

Farewell to Lord Fixit

by Dennis Kavanagh



Whitelaw: a political career devoted to conciliation

Lord Whitelaw's retirement is more than a turning point in Mrs Thatcher's government: his departure marks the end of 23 years at the centre of power in the Conservative Party.

William Whitelaw, a symbol of a brand of Conservatism different from the Prime Minister's, entered the Commons in 1955. With his upper-class background of Winchester, Cambridge and the Guards, and financial independence, it was no surprise that he gained the safe seat of Penrith. Having been a junior minister under Macmillan he was Chief Whip throughout the opposition years 1964-1970. It was he who told Sir Alec Douglas-Home of the pressure in the party for him to step down as leader. "You can stay and be criticized or resign and be a hero", he said. In the Heath government he began as Leader of the House of Commons and moved to Northern Ireland for a productive spell during which he persuaded the two sides to accept a power-sharing executive.

In December 1973 he returned to mainland politics as Minister of Employment at the height of the miners' industrial action, but too late to employ his conciliatory skills. He was not in favour of Mr Heath calling an election in February 1974.

There was a good chance that Whitelaw could have succeeded Heath as leader after the second election defeat in 1974. Heath was deaf to suggestions that he stand aside and insisted on offering himself for re-election in February 1975. There was never any chance that Whitelaw would stand on the first ballot; he felt himself tied to Heath. But by the time Heath had been eliminated by Mrs Thatcher and Whitelaw entered the race, she had a head start. Insofar as there was still a Tory "magic circle", it wanted Whitelaw as leader. Mrs Thatcher's election was a mark of how it and Heath botched the succession.

R.A. Butler never got over his failure to gain the highest political prize of all. Whitelaw seemed to thrive on his failure. He has never doubted that Mrs Thatcher was the best choice for the party and for the country. He knows also that he could never have kept the right wing in line while the party

was in opposition. There were also doubts, which he shared, about his toughness (critics referred to his "glass jaw") and competence on economic policy. His sheer niceness stopped him from becoming leader.

He will be much missed in government. Mrs Thatcher found him a reliable chairman of important cabinet committees, not least the Star Chamber on public spending. His personal authority and warmth has also been important in running what is increasingly a cross-bench House of Lords, which has inflicted more than 100 defeats on the government since 1979. The Tory front bench in the Lords is weak, and new recruits such as Prior and Pym will not play Whitelaw's role. The poll tax and the Education Bill are sure to have rough passages in the Upper House.

Above all, Mrs Thatcher has lost the shrewd advice of a senior, loyal counsellor. Like all prime ministers she has brooked no rivals; her record in office is

littered with the ghosts of would-be successors. Whitelaw has never been a rival. Once the leadership was settled in February 1975, he promised her his total loyalty.

In time he came to admire Mrs Thatcher greatly. He tried to curb her more impetuous schemes, but quietly. "I'm never an accelerator, but I'm the best brake she has," he once said. It is doubtful whether he has fully understood or supported Thatcherism in all its aspects. He was dismayed by his rough treatment in the Law and Order debate at the 1981 party conference and his leader's open support for his critics.

Some disappointed "wets" will write another side to the story. They complain that he has placed his loyalty to Mrs Thatcher above that to the country. "Not a resignation in him," said one minister at the time of the Cabinet revolt over economic policy in 1981.

Whitelaw has been an unlikely ally for Mrs Thatcher. In 1975 she spoke in New York about how

"bourgeois guilt" had prevented her predecessors from adopting necessary tough measures. Worried by the social divisions and mass unemployment of the 1930s, they had delayed the currency, appeased trade union power and expanded state welfare. Unlike Macmillan, Butler and Heath, she had no such guilt.

Yet Whitelaw was clearly one of "them". The formative experience in his life was leading his working-class troops across Normandy minefields in the Second World War. When he visited the families of those who died he was shocked by the poverty in which many lived. He entered politics to improve social conditions - the classic One-Nation Tory.

The party's right wing has never liked him. He has always been on the side of caution. Although he stuffed money into the pockets of the police and introduced "short sharp shock" treatment for young offenders, right wingers still called for his dismissal as Home Secretary.

Lord Whitelaw has been a trimmer and a fixer, not a good manager of a department. Although he lacked his leader's drive, he has certainly supplied some of the arts which she lacks. As Chief Whip in the Commons, as an emboldened Minister of Employment, and as Leader of the House of Lords his political career has been devoted to finding out what people will settle for. "Have a word with Willie", and "Willie is looking into it" have been frequent answers to looming political troubles.

Lord Whitelaw leaves no landmark, no legislative achievement. He is no great brain (though cleverer than he likes to appear), nor an innovator. But he has been a skilful politician, a shrewd judge of character, good at getting people to work together and resourceful in finding solutions. His patrician and paternalist style and his open-mindedness belong to smoother political times.

A true blue Conservative, he has been one of the least partisan of men. He has faithfully served the interests, however changing, of his party.

The author is Professor of Politics at Nottingham University.

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Know-go's raw nerve

On payment of a reasonable fee, anyone in this country has a right to be furnished with a copy of the decision in any case decided in the High Court. The same right applies in the lower courts, in respect of civil actions, but not criminal. Crown courts and magistrates' courts are obliged by law to keep a register of their decisions, but there is no public right of access to it, and the courts in question may refuse an application for the details of what was decided in open court.

The Guild of British Newspaper Editors recently asked the Home Office to end this indefensible anomaly by putting civil and criminal cases on an equal footing in all courts, so that the public would have a right to know the outcome of any case; after all, newspapers can report only a tiny fraction of cases, and the right to find out what happened in the others is surely basic to the rules of open justice openly arrived at.

And the Home Office refused.

There is literally no reason at all why the decision in any openly decided case should not be available. The Home Office's refusal was based on nothing but the fanciful determination of government and Civil Service to prevent the public knowing anything that government and Civil Service prefer the public not to know. No question of security arises; there can be no argument that the processes of the law might be compromised; no danger to Britain's defences or economy is involved; but the habit of secrecy is now so deeply embedded in the political and administrative authorities that they would rather defy justice and common sense together rather than let the people have any information of any kind that the authorities in question have power to deny.

Could there be a better demonstration of the necessity of the private member's bill introduced into the House of Commons by Mr Richard Shepherd which seeks to make a tiny dent in the wall of unnecessary secrecy that at present surrounds us all? And could there be a more striking confirmation of the indignation with which the authorities defend that wall than the Prime Minister's grotesque and unprecedented demand for a three-line whip to defeat Mr Shepherd's bill? (He is a Conservative, incidentally.)

Mr Shepherd's bill seeks to repeal the hopeless mess that Section Two of the Official Secrets Act has become, and to replace it with a new measure which would strictly protect information that for security and similar reasons must remain secret, but would have the effect of liberating harmless information and, at the same time, provide a defence of public good for the disclosure of matter that those who govern us want undisclosed.

Mr Shepherd, in his bill, has been careful not to touch Section 1, which deals with espionage and similar matters. He has drawn rigid lines around the duties of everybody who handles potentially secret documents. He has proposed the strictest safeguards for the protection of material which is vital for the processes of government. He has laid down severe penalties for those who break their trust or who improperly reveal or acquire secret information. In short, he and his co-sponsors (they include such unrevolutionary figures as Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Sir Ian Gilmour, Mr Teddy Taylor and Mr Marilyn Rees) have made sure that nothing truly secret will lack protection by law; whence, after all, his measure's title: The Protection of Official Information Bill.

But Mr Shepherd has done three more things in his bill, and it is these three that the government and the Civil Service fear so greatly that they have determined that the bill must not pass. First, he has, in Section 7, included this provision:

It shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence under this Act to prove that the

"The bill must be defeated because ministers and civil servants must retain the unfettered right to deceive, to cover up misconduct and cheat the public in the darkness they wrap round themselves in the name of the law"

disclosure or retention of the information or article was in the public interest insofar as he had reasonable cause to believe that it indicated the existence of crime, fraud, abuse of authority, neglect in the performance of official duty or other misconduct.

Observe the mildness of that clause, the careful drawing of limits, the requirement of "reasonable cause to believe". Observe also that the next clause in the bill lays down that the defence will fail unless the person charged "has taken reasonable steps to comply with any established procedures for drawing such misconduct to the attention of the appropriate authorities without effect". No matter; the bill must be defeated because ministers and civil servants must retain the unfettered right to deceive, to cover up misconduct, to cheat the public, and to do all these things and more in the darkness they wrap round themselves in the name of the law.

Second, Mr Shepherd has made provision for something that is always dangerous in legislation: a recognition that if a little common sense could be incorporated in the measure, it would do no harm, and might do a surprising amount of good. It comes in this form, in Section 6:

It shall be a defence for a person charged with an offence under this Act to prove that before the time of the alleged offence the information or article had become publicly available, whether in the United Kingdom or elsewhere.

For a government which has been relying for a year on the Shutting the Stable Door (After the Bird has Flown) Act, that must have been worn-out; but I really do think that freedom of speech is more important than ensuring that the Prime Minister's teeth are not set on edge.

But that is not the worst, nor the most urgent reason for the government and Civil Service to wish the bill buried. Mr Shepherd's bill requires a minister who asserts that the unauthorized disclosure of any information or document would endanger security or other vital national interests to give a certificate to that effect.

No one can (or does) object to that; it is a tidy way of enshrining the minister's view. But Mr Shepherd is not content to leave it there; he has committed the ultimate crime - the provision of judicial review of the minister's certificate, to determine whether the minister's fears are justified, partly justified, exaggerated, ridiculous, mad or simply fraudulent. He doesn't put it as impolitely as that, of course; he says:

Where on a prosecution under this Act a defendant challenges a certificate... the Attorney General shall refer the... certificate to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, which shall determine whether the information or article to which the certificate refers was at the time of the alleged offence properly classified... which determination shall be conclusive.

I imagine the terror that stalked Whitehall when those words were read and construed. If the bill passes with that provision, it will mean that a minister's decision may be permitted to stand. As it happens, the clause is weaker than it looks: "the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council" sounds like a most impressive and august body, though the truth is that in practice it is only the Law Lords again, and a fat lot of good they have shown themselves recently when it comes to the defence of the liberty of expression. Still, it is the best we can do, and anyway it has struck the authorities speechless with mingled rage and fear, which suggests that it might occasionally work to the people's advantage, even if only by accident.

I wish I had space to print Mr Shepherd's entire bill, so that my readers could see how modest, careful and wise it is. For that matter, I wish I could print the whole of Mr Shepherd's explanations, notes, background material and speeches, so that my readers could also see how mild is his language, how sympathetic he is to the principle that much information can never be disclosed, how scrupulous and patriotic he has been in his campaign. (He has repeatedly asked both the Prime Minister and the Home Secretary to tell him what they object to in his bill. They have both refused to do so.)

Mr Shepherd's bill is necessary and important. The government has therefore given orders to the Tories to vote it down. The government has also promised that, if this bill fails, it will bring in its own; the only thing that can be said with absolute certainty of such a government measure is that it will make the situation more restrictive and repressive than it is now. I hope that on Friday there will be enough Conservatives with enough backbone to defy the Whips and vote for Mr Shepherd's bill, and enough tenacity to see it through its remaining stages after that.

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T.E. Utley

Other-worldly broadcasting

It is a pity, but a fact, that those who take up the cudgels against bias in broadcasting almost always end by looking ridiculous. This was the case with Mr Norman Tebbit. He had an excellent argument and his motives were unimpeachable; but he nevertheless failed.

I think there are two reasons for this sort of misfortune. The first is the assumption, almost always made by the critics of this section of the media, that there is a conspiracy in operation. The idea is that a bunch of fanatical producers and editors get together for the purpose of abusing their power to corrupt society, subvert government and undermine Mrs Thatcher. I do not believe this to be true.

Let me illustrate my point. From time to time the television services seek my advice on some question on which they think me to be well informed. The normal procedure is to send round to me an amiable young woman with a pleasantly stilted voice and a 2.2 degree from a modern university. She is called a researcher. I give her a drink and we talk, and later I sometimes receive a rather insulting tip. I remember one such visitation from a girl who was compiling a programme on Christianity and Conservatism. The assumption underlying the exercise was that I was a museum piece, too frail and antique to be exposed to direct contact with the public but worthy of being described. After I had bored on for a bit the child politely interrupted me with this practical question: "Could you just tell me exactly when it was that people began to say that it was possible to be a Christian and a Conservative?"

I explained, to the best of my ability, that throughout most of European history it had been widely believed that Christianity required a passive acceptance of the social and political order and that, therefore, it was only in comparatively recent times that the notion had grown up that one could be a Christian without being a Conservative. I went on to point out that this relatively modern development - this view that you could be opposed to the established order and determined to destroy it (a view which had certain historical antecedents to which I sought to introduce my interviewer) was a very good thing. The young woman was perplexed beyond belief. She plainly had always believed that the idea you could be a Christian and a Conservative had been invented by John Selwyn Gummer.

These people mean no harm. They are not consciously exercising in importing bias into broadcasting. They just do not know about

anything that happened before 1917, and that is putting it generously. It is we who are to blame for having failed to educate them while giving them an overwhelming impression that they have been educated.

The second trouble with the critics of broadcasting is that they assume that there is something intrinsically wrong in the broadcasting services' expressing any kind of consensus. Such a consensus is inevitable. These semi-monopolistic institutions are in existence to reflect contemporary culture. They should not do that exclusively, of course; they should always reserve some time for those who are attacking the accepted view. Nevertheless, they cannot keep up a universal debate in which every possible opinion is expressed. They must reflect the times in which they live.

This is precisely what they're not doing at the minute. The broadcasting establishment has a view of Britain which is frozen in the memory of Sir Hugh Carleton Greene. He invented the idea that the BBC was not just a mirror, but an estate of the realm, appointed to the task of criticizing and reforming society. It was a most discreditable attitude. He spawned a generation which still survives and dominates broadcasting. It is, indeed, expressing a consensus, but it is the establishment consensus created a quarter of a century ago.

The broadcasting authorities must find some way of bringing themselves up to date, of living in the real world. One of the fundamental objections to them is not that they are "biased" but that they are not contemporary. They are striving earnestly to preserve something which has gone. Thereby they cause offence and anger and may also do a little harm, but, in bringing themselves up to date, they should not forget their duty to give a platform to the critics of the current establishment.

I am prompted, by these thoughts, by a brilliant lecture given by Ian Curteis to the Edinburgh television festival last August, and now published in *The Salisbury Review*. He was a staff director in the BBC's drama group in the Sixties, and later the author of a play about the Falklands, which the BBC rejected. His theme is the way in which BBC drama has been captured by the left, by the critics of the historic establishment. He thinks that this is a legitimate theme for BBC drama, but that the other side of the coin should be exhibited as well. He also believes that the BBC should get in touch with the world as it is. All this makes him a more formidable critic than Mr Tebbit.

however... Philip Howard

Having a ball with the birl

I know that you should make a point of trying every experience once, excepting incest and Scottish country dancing. But if you insist on coming up to darkest Ayrshire at this time of year, you are going to have to break at least one leg of that principle. For what they are worth, all South Ayrshire beauty and chivalry gather for the annual climax of the Maybole Birl. Since you cannot get out of it, these few precepts about Scottish dancing will help you survive.

Remember that this is a competitive, contact sport. Why do you think it is called "country" dancing? The epithet has nothing to do with rural innocence, but is a distortion of *contra*, referring to the opposing sets of players, usually men facing women. It is much older than the so-called Old-Time dances, performed by couples holding on to each other and decorum.

The dances usually work on an alternating principle. If you put your right hand forward last time, it will be the left hand's turn next. If you set to your partner last time, next time you should turn her/him.

These are display as well as conflict sports. Dash the White Sergeant, why do you suppose it is called the Fling? At present the Fling consists of four to eight steps, each with a descriptive name in the Lowland tongue (shedding, shaking, rocking, etc) or in Gaelic (*ceum coisithe*, *leus a' traid*, etc). For our purposes all you need to do is lift right leg in air, and alternately straighten and bend it, nonchalantly. Smile at your partner. Do not look down.

Gentlemen normally turn ladies using both hands. MacFiggies spin them violently with one elbow, causing the country dancer's ailment known as Birler's Burn. Serious female country dancers wear tartan pads, known as Orterpusses, on the inner elbow. In the Eighties, upper-class Yaah dancers look bored and make conversation while not actually "in". In lower-class country dancing everybody birls continuously, spinning on the elbow, not with the Great-Jessie two-handed turn. Yoke! Eighties are more fun, but more dangerous.

Never attempt anything with tea-pots in it. When in doubt, do something and persevere. I once knocked down seven couples at the Caledonian Ball at the Dorchester by being convinced that Great Aunt Fanny and I were parading in the right direction in

Speed the Plough, and that everybody else was out of step. If wrong-footed, you can usually make it look as though you are introducing an ecstatic Argyle variant by revolving slowly and flinging as though pulling on tight.

Many of these dances, which are designed as shibboleths to sort the true Scots from the pseudo, have dummies built in to them. In Hamilton House, if somebody advances towards you with hands held out in invitation, hold yours



Chris Wormell

out in response, and then swing away as though you have just remembered an urgent appointment in the next set.

The kilt is not necessary. Real snobs consider it a solacium south of the Highland Line anyway. If you must, go to a serious Scottish outfitter, avoid fancy jabsots and *sham-dhus*, wear a neutral tartan, and make sure that everything is securely fastened before you start. Waddle softly and carry a big safety-pin. You will go far.

If you dance the Eighties, as you must, it is difficult to avoid dancing the Foursome, which comes immediately afterwards. It is easier for the women, who are wearing long frocks so that nobody can see what their legs are up to or not up to. Do not be caught short by the shift from Strathspey to Reel steps. When the other man and you are birling in the middle, remember that he wants to dominate if not kill you. Avoid complicated linkages with arms behind back.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WITHOUT WHITELAW

The Deputy Prime Minister's duties in government will be divided once he has gone. The new Leader of the House of Lords has been announced already; Lord Belstead is to take on the unenviable task of winning the second chamber to the cause of the Community Charge and the Education Bill. A new coordinator will be needed for the interlocking Cabinet committees whose business Lord Whitelaw has so much made his own; both Sir Geoffrey Howe and Mr John Wakeham may see some opportunities for advancement here.

Lord Whitelaw's most significant duty was, however, outside of these. It was self-imposed and special to himself.

For ten turbulent years he struggled to reconcile the slower reaches of the Conservative Party with a leader who liked the rapids. It was a two-way process that was often misunderstood — and often needed to be misunderstood if it was to work.

Ungrudging revolutionaries of the Right would vilify his opposition to their plans. Friendly Cabinet moderates would bemoan his betrayal of their heritage. All the while, he would continue to play both sides in favour of the middle. And the middle — as he saw it — was Mrs Thatcher.

It is too early to judge how much of the achievement of her Prime Ministership can be credited to her deputy. In particular, it may never be assessed how much he contributed to her recovery from the Westland affair. But by all those who take pleasure that the Tories have stayed radical and stayed in power, he is undoubtedly owed a substantial debt.

It has been in many respects an unsung role. In an age dominated by television he did his

best work well behind the screen. As a Government spokesman he was not a great success. As a departmental minister he was only moderately distinguished. But as a reconciler of the irreconcilable, as a committed punch-bag against which the committed could try their strength, he was unsurpassed.

Sometimes the lobby gossip said that he was in high favour with the Prime Minister; sometimes that he was not. Sometimes that was true; sometimes not. In general his influence grew steadily, the more so after he left the House of Commons and, with it, even a nominal chance to be her successor.

Wherein lies the rub. There is now no one in the Cabinet who could reasonably affect the title of elder statesman. There is no statesman of any kind without a personal interest in the future leadership of the country. An important source of advice has been stemmed. It is hard to see it reopening.

Lord Young once looked set to become such a counsellor. But the bizarre battle for the Party chairmanship damaged that prospect. Mr John Wakeham sits in Lord Whitelaw's mould but has yet to prove he can fill it. The glowing members of Sir Geoffrey Howe's ambition have ensured that the title of Deputy Prime Minister goes into retirement along with its last holder.

The long-term gain from Lord Whitelaw's departure is Mr Cecil Parkinson whose candidacy for the succession would have been opposed most strongly from the Lord President's office. The loser is Mr Kenneth Baker who could have as surely looked for support from that quarter. The most immediate loss, however, is to the Prime Minister herself.

SETTING WALL STREET'S LIMITS

President Reagan is unlikely to have left for his Camp David retreat on Friday with a copy of the Brady Commission report tucked into the glove compartment of the Presidential helicopter, any more than Nigel Lawson would have put it top of his reading for his weekend pre-Budget meeting with Treasury officials at Chevening. But the crash of 1987, which began only minutes before Wall Street closed last week and accelerated to a fall of 140 points in little more than an hour, ensures that the report into the causes of the 1987 collapse on October 19 and 20 cannot just be shelved.

Mr Nicholas Brady, who chaired the Task Force on Market Mechanisms, is an experienced Wall Street banker and former senator. His report, while only the first of several on Black Monday, provides enough ideas for reform of market regulation to be worthy of serious study.

Some of the recommendations will find little sympathy with a President who is totally committed to free markets; others will be condemned by the Wall Street establishment as unwelcome. But markets exist to serve and if they start to gain the upper hand they must be open to change. The collapse of share prices caused panic throughout the free world. For a while stock markets dominated the actions of governments and central banks; they altered economic perspectives and changed the outlook for the growth of whole nations. The tail began to wag the dog.

If that unacceptable relationship between the world's stock markets and the institutions they are meant to serve is to end, either the old dogs of government will have to get accustomed to the market tail wagging of its own accord and pay it no heed, or the tail brought under control. Mr Brady and his task force addressed the second option and concluded that immediate action is needed to protect the share market and the financial system (in that order) from the destructive consequences of violent market breaks.

It is ironic that one reason Wall Street was so jumpy last Friday was that leaks in the American Press correctly predicted that Mr

Brady would recommend the introduction of "circuit breaker" mechanisms which would limit price movements or stop trading when prices moved outside certain pre-set limits. The idea is not new, and is in daily operation on many exchanges around the world. Tokyo, in particular, has a comprehensive system of limits, both upward and downward. While they do little to impede normal trading they do prevent falls of the magnitude of the 22 per cent one-day decline on the New York Stock Exchange last October.

The whole philosophy of the New York market, however, is against price limits of any kind, and brokers have spent the past few days telling anyone who would listen that while the customers may not have liked the prices, at least the market stayed open. Price limits should be imposed only after a bitter battle and are quite rightly unlikely to stay in the running unless Friday's fall turns out to be a precursor of yet more precipitous declines.

But other recommendations of the Brady report, such as putting all the various markets under the coordinating control of one agency, unified clearing systems, and consistent credit requirements from customers dealing in different financial instruments, recognize the reality of the unity of modern stock markets. An overhaul of the regulatory system is required, and not only in the United States, but it should be remembered that increased volatility is a direct consequence, too, of the improvements in communication. If everyone receives a piece of information at the same time, then they are all likely to react to it at the same time.

Before getting too bogged down in detail, however, the rule makers should remind themselves that the underlying cause of the financial bloodletting was the sickness of the American economy. The fall of one third in share prices, which began in New York and was repeated around the world, was a symptom of that malady: stock markets, in the end, are merely reflecting levels of confidence in the health of national economies.

BETTER FEWER, BUT BETTER

The turn of the year and Mrs Thatcher's record as the longest continuously serving British Prime Minister have brought tributes to Britain from an unusual source: the official Soviet media. According to the news agency Tass, 1987 was a particularly fruitful year for Soviet-British relations, and the feeling seems to be mutual. Mrs Thatcher, in a remark quoted approvingly by Tass, has described Anglo-Soviet relations as warmer now than at any time since the war. Certainly Mrs Thatcher's visit to Moscow, the two visits to the Gorbachevs to Britain, and Moscow's energetic efforts in self-publicity over the past two years have fired British interest in all things Russian.

Sooner or later, when schools and colleges start to acknowledge the growth of interest among their pupils, it will be channelled into urgent appeals for more teachers, more study facilities and above all more money to meet the new Soviet "challenge". Support for these calls will come from industrialists who will claim that ignorance of the language places us at a disadvantage compared with our European partners especially at a time when the Soviet Union seems interested in taking a more active part in international trade.

Support will also come from politicians, at either end of the ideological spectrum. On one side will be those who believe more Russians are needed to help the rapprochement process along. On the other will be those whose experience has taught them to be wary of Soviet intentions. They will call for more specialists to understand and interpret the still opaque utterances from the Kremlin.

But before ambitious schemes are formulated to make the British a nation of Russian-speakers, it is worth considering what has happened before. Contrary to popular belief, Russia has been in vogue before — in the mid-Fifties and the late Sixties. That, however, is the problem: Russia has come and gone with fashion. At present there are probably

enough Russian speakers in Britain to meet requirements, if they could be found. Many have degrees in Russian, but because there was little demand for their skills they found employment in other fields. If the Soviet Union does not open up in the way it (and the West) hopes, the same could happen again.

A pool of Russianists even exists where it is probably most needed: in secondary schools. After the switch to comprehensive education, Russian suffered the fate of other supposedly difficult languages. Despite promises that larger schools would mean wider choice, French has squeezed out almost every other foreign language — living or dead. Yet many of the teachers who once taught Russian in combination with French or German are still there. So, in many cases, are their books.

What needs to be resisted are demands for more money to be automatically assigned to first and second degree courses. The universities are just completing a rationalization of Russian studies designed to concentrate resources in a number of centres of excellence. This rationalization was necessitated by the uncoordinated expansion of Russian studies in universities during the Sixties and Seventies and was overdue.

No one should wish to see gifted and productive specialists in the traditional fields of language, literature and history dispensed with; they are vital if overall academic standards are to be maintained. But for these disciplines to dominate the field so completely, when the requirement for expertise and the opportunities for employment lie elsewhere, is a bad miscalculation. It allows taxpayers to believe that universities are divorced from reality and leaves Russian graduates without the knowledge which would make them more readily employable. A thorough review of present priorities should be undertaken before any more money is offered. It may not be needed.

Enduring challenges of transport

From Mr Richard Cottrell, MEP for Bristol and Bath (European Democrat (Conservative))
Sir, Reports of the plan (details, January 4) to construct a super-highway and rail network beneath the bed of the Thames are echoed by similar historical ventures to relieve traffic congestion in London.

The Victorian engineers, James Samuel and John Heppell, astonished Parliament in 1864 with a scheme for a "Thames Viaduct Railway", which would have marched down the centre of the Thames like a vast stilted giant, linking Parliament, the Law Courts and all the great centres of commerce with a frequent service of trains running night and day.

Alas, they failed to convince a sceptical Parliament and the Coptic Group will encounter, a century on, that enduring lack of vision which has soured all great schemes in transport engineering in Britain.

One must view the proposal to build a high-speed deck above the M25 in the same light. It is already clear that the M25 is less a by-pass than a tourniquet, wholly inadequate for present traffic demands, let alone those of the future. To expand the capacity of one road by building another is already an antique proposition.

The arterial advantages of the M25 would best be exploited by duplicating its route with a surface high-speed rail network, using levitated vehicles propelled by superconductivity. The Germans are investing huge amounts in their advanced "Magnetbahn" technology and can already demonstrate a 40-kilometre test system.

Similar developments are proceeding apace in Japan, the United States and Canada. Britain — apart from a little silver of track at Birmingham Airport — chose (yet again) to abandon a world lead in this form of propulsion, having given birth to the concept some 15 years ago.

Others now march where we could and should lead. Irrespective of the fate of the Thames tunnel, the real avenue of opportunity lies in creating a 21st century "outer circle" of high-speed trains (velocities of 200 mph-plus are quite feasible) circumnavigating London in parallel with the M25 corridor. Interchange facilities, coupled to conventional road and rail networks, would offer superior advantages in terms of speed and efficiency.

Yours sincerely,
RICHARD COTTELL,
Dean House, Clang Road,
Bower Ashton, Bristol.

From the General Secretary, Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen

Sir, I read with astonishment your January 5 leader, "The next tunnel", in which you claimed the high-speed rail lines proposed by Cossin would face hostility from the rail unions.

We have never opposed, but

have always welcomed, the extension of the rail network, be it the building of the Victoria Line, the Docklands Light Railway, the Tyne and Wear Metro, to name but a few. Equally, we have opposed closure of rail lines and cuts in services, whether pre-Beeching, during Beeching, or post-Beeching. Every improvement in the rail network has been consistently welcomed by our society and by our colleagues in other rail unions.

The "qualities of scale and vision" you see in Cossin's proposals to build a couple of high-speed rail lines and a freight marshalling yard in the South-east have come to Cossin at a late stage. Improvements to the rail network are needed throughout Britain to fulfil the potential of the Channel tunnel. These improvements have long been called for by the rail unions. That is a scale and vision which the Department of Transport tried to do with the Docklands Light Railway to a private consortium as a reward for building a couple of rail lines and a marshalling yard — then we would be strongly opposed.

Although the Cossin project is limited to the south-east of England, this society is not hostile to it if the intention is to improve the rail network. If, however, the ultimate intention is to create "an alternative private rail network" by handing over parts of the rail network to the Department of Transport tried to do with the Docklands Light Railway to a private consortium as a reward for building a couple of rail lines and a marshalling yard — then we would be strongly opposed.

The development of the Channel tunnel and the increased railway income it will generate, should be used by British Rail to help the long-suffering rail travellers get the services they require at reasonable cost. The Channel tunnel should not be used to hand over potentially profitable parts of the rail network to the private sector to allow it to cream off the increased number of rail travellers created by the Channel tunnel.

As Cossin Group have grasped, investment is desperately needed to improve rail links this side of the tunnel. British Rail intend to spend £400 million over an unspecified number of years in upgrading the existing track. The Government will neither give them the money, or even allow them to borrow the money to pay for further improvements which are desperately needed.

The French have a different vision. They are to spend £1.8 billion on track improvements alone before the tunnel is completed.

It is time the British Government showed real vision and rose to the challenge of the Channel tunnel. I fear, however, that the field of vision from the grocer's shop is strictly limited.

Yours faithfully,
NEIL MILLIGAN,
General Secretary, ASLEF,
9 Arkwright Road,
Hampstead, NW3.

Value of juries

From Sir Frederick Lawton
Sir, In his article (January 5) Mr John Spencer compared unfavourably appeals by way of rehearing from convictions before magistrates and appeals to the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) from convictions on indictment.

He seems to have overlooked the constitutional principle which explains the difference, namely that convictions on indictment result from the verdicts of juries. For centuries the law has left juries to find the facts and to decide guilt. For judges to re-hear a case after a jury had given a verdict would tend to make trial by jury otiose.

This was the reasoning, as the debates show, which led Parliament, when passing the Criminal Appeal Act 1907, to confine the jurisdiction of the new Court of Criminal Appeal to quashing a verdict on limited grounds, one of which was that it was not in accordance with the evidence.

By 1966 experience had shown that occasionally juries returned verdicts of guilty which were unsafe because the evidence was too slight or otherwise unsatisfactory. The Criminal Appeal Act of that year (re-enacted as the Criminal Appeal Act 1968) extended the jurisdiction of the

Court of Appeal so as to empower it to quash a conviction if it considered it to be unsafe or unsatisfactory.

It does exercise this extended jurisdiction, but it feels bound to remember that it is for juries to decide all issues of credibility. It should not go behind the findings of juries on such issues unless they were clearly wrong.

As to hearing new evidence on appeal, the guiding principle has always been that it should be heard if the justice of the case demands it. In practice few appeals apply for leave to call new evidence. All too often when leave is granted the new evidence proves not to be credible or to have little bearing on the relevant issue.

No doubt the Court of Appeal does make mistakes. I query, however, whether any other system for hearing appeals against conviction for serious crimes would be any better. Re-hearings would be impracticable because of the demands on judges' and court time and the vast expense which would be incurred.

It may be pertinent to remember that witnesses, like young race horses, learn a lot from their first time out. Justice may not be done if there is a re-run.

Yours sincerely,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
2 Harcourt Buildings,
Temple, EC4.

Credit where due

From Mrs E. A. Hennessy
Sir, Further to John Grigg's entertaining article (January 2) on the topic of literary dedication, I can add two more instances of books dedicated to animals. A. Wainwright inscribed his illustrated guides to the southern and central fells of Lakeland respectively to the local sheep, "The trusty flocks of the mountains", and dogs, "willing workers and faithful friends".

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH A. HENNESSY,
28 Elm Bank Gardens,
Barnes, SW13.

From Mr Mac Davies
Sir, May I, through you, offer to John Grigg a most engaging dedication — Professor Maurice Beresford's *History on the Ground*, one of his many seminal contributions to the grassroots of English social history. To my Mother, who packed the Sandwiches.

Yours truly,
MAX DAVIES,
129 High Street,
Chislehurst, Oxford.

Early leanings

From Mr John Sidgwick
Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Owen (January 6), is all topsyturvy: top-to-bottom titles are easier to read — they go in a natural direction.

I asked several people this morning to write the names vertically. All printed the letters from top to bottom. I then asked them to print their names horizontally and turn the paper so that the printing should appear vertically. All pushed the paper so that the name should be read top to bottom. The sample included right-handers and left-handers.

The top-to-bottom spine title appears the right way up when the book is laid flat in a natural way — i.e., with the front face uppermost. Finally, it is the top-to-bottom titles which enable the searcher of books on library shelves to keep an eye on obstacles. The bottom-to-top titles force you to present your back to the traffic.

Conclusion: let publishers stick to top-to-bottomism!
Yours faithfully,
JOHN SIDGWICK,
17 Assinns Place, NW11,
January 6.

Putting pressure on charities

From the Director of the Family Welfare Association and others
Sir, From April, people in need will be told to apply first to charities before the State will consider providing financial assistance. That is the date when the system of legal entitlement to supplementary benefit single payments for items like essential household furniture will be replaced by discretionary loans and grants from a cash-limited social fund.

In deciding whether to make a loan or grant, the DHSS will take into account whether the need could be met from another source — e.g., a charity or relative. If this scheme goes ahead, hard-pressed charities expect a storm of new applications for help which they will simply be unable to meet.

A meeting of representatives of grant-giving charities, convened last November by the Family Welfare Association, was united in opposition to the condition that the DHSS should first refer people to charities for financial assistance. All were concerned, and many outraged, at the consequence this would have on people in need, batted from pillar to post without certainty of ever being helped. Some felt strongly that charities were being morally blackmailed into making up the shortfall of at least £150 million a year — the difference between current expenditure on single payments of £350 million and the social fund budget of £200 million for 1988-89.

Severe cutbacks to the single payment system and to other statutory help in the last few years have already led to increased

demand on charitable funds which few of us are able to meet. Opportunities for augmenting charitable funds are limited.

Decisions as to who needs help and how it should be met are matters of public policy. It is not the role of charities to finance these policies. The public have not given so generously to charities in order to replace the statutory benefits for which they have already paid in taxes.

We are sure that your readers and the public at large will not accept the principle that the DHSS should refer people to charities for help in the first instance.

Yours sincerely,
R. E. MORLEY (Director, The Family Welfare Association),
SALLY GREENGROSS (Director, Age Concern England),
R. SINGLETON (Senior Director, Dr Barnardo's),
JOHN COX (General Secretary, The Spastics Society),
RICHARD PUGH (British Epilepsy Association),
GEOFFREY ATKINSON (Director, Motor and Cycle Trades Benevolent Fund),
The Family Welfare Association,
501-505 Kingsland Road,
Dalston, E8,
January 7.

ON THIS DAY

JANUARY 11 1909

The earthquake which occurred at the end of 1908 left Messina in ruins, with the loss of 75,000 lives in the area. A few days later the town of Reggio suffered the same fate: loss of life in the whole of Sicily and Calabria was estimated at 200,000.

THE EARTHQUAKE.

INCIDENTS OF THE RELIEF WORK.

(From Our Special Correspondent.)

SYRACUSE, Jan. 10.

Good sense and good manners on both sides have prevented certain occurrences at Messina from becoming an "incident", the tact of various persons chief among them the King of Italy, has been successful in smoothing the friction, which, to say the least, was extremely distressing. I do not want to give further details about this unpleasant matter, for which nobody was to blame, but which was the result of circumstances...

How easily friction is generated under such conditions as existed and exist at Messina was forcibly impressed upon me on the hospital ship. As stated in a previous telegram, the ship was in urgent need of supplies; yet an Italian nobleman, a high official of the Red Cross Society, declared in my hearing, "We have everything we want." He was simply obeying the instinct which makes a proud man conceal his poverty and the patriot cover up the shortcomings of his country. He would now probably readily admit that it was fortunate that his protest against receiving aid was unheeded.

It is pleasant to be able to record that great tact, a quality for which our nation is not exactly celebrated, was displayed by the commanders of the British warships which rendered aid at Messina and in Calabria. They did the work which humanity demanded of them and did it with efficiency and then when Italy had time to send warships and troops they did not stay. Officers and men were modest regarding the work they did, and it is from Italians that I have obtained some idea of the aid which the British rendered. That for some time the ruined villages of Calabria were policed entirely by British is I suppose known in London, but one must talk with the refugees to realize how the sailors became nurses for infants, feeding them at first by dipping their fingers in milk and afterwards from feeding bottles improvised in all sorts of ingenious ways; how a box of jewels worth £5,000 was found by the sailors and handed over to the officers; how ruins were scaled and rescues effected at the imminent risk of the sailors' lives and in ways that seemed to Italians miraculous.

The genius for organization of the Anglo-Saxon race, the one quality in which that race is supreme, as cultivated Latins cheerfully admit, is being well displayed at the present time. At Catania I found English and Americans all at work, and here at Syracuse there is not an idle person in the foreign colony. The British Vice-Consul, Mr Lobb, has been indefatigable, and the women are busy tending the injured and making clothing and bandages. A number of women refugees have been put to work with needles, which is the only possible way of taking their minds from the terrors they went through. Fourteen doctors of Malta volunteered and came here to succour the victims.

The hotel-keepers of Sicily fear ruin owing to the expected destruction of their winter trade. Undoubtedly many tourists have already been frightened away. After leaving Rome I had the entire train from Paris to myself, a number of travellers deciding not to go further south. This attitude is quite unreasonable, as outside the region affected by the earthquake Sicily is as delightful as ever.

Third World books

From Mr John E. Tricks
Sir, The headmaster's suggestion (January 2) that redundant O-level textbooks be sent from this country to alleviate the desperate shortage in most African schools deserves both official and commercial support.

Twenty-five years ago, when I was a tobacco planter in the remote north of Sierra Leone, I was host to the United States Ambassador who came up to distribute American textbooks and meet the local paramount chiefs.

The books were obsolete and would otherwise have been pulped but were nevertheless accepted graciously by the chiefs who were themselves illiterate and more accustomed to receiving presents of gin.

The episode prompts the thought that it may be possible to prevail upon the tobacco industry to collect, ship and distribute the books. Few other industries or organisations have access to such a well-resourced distribution system in the UK and Africa as a whole.

The Foreign Office would have to co-ordinate the details with the various ministers of education.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN E. TRICKS,
Smith Hayes,
Charlton Fitzpaine,
Creddon, Devon,
January 3.

Saved by leeches

From Mrs Dorothy E. Phillips
Sir, It is with great interest I read John A. Hill's article, "Stick with a leech" (January 6). The year 1935 saw me in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, with a severe attack of rheumatic fever. There seemed little that could be done in those days other than rest, careful nursing and prayer.

However, a visiting senior heart specialist suggested leeches. He said students should not be let in on the job as bleeding with leeches was not general.

I remember the "operation", skilfully carried out by the ward sister, not by the pain, but by the unusualness of it all. To this day I am proud of my leech scars.

Yours faithfully,
DOROTHY E. PHILLIPS,
5 West Manton,
Marlborough, Wiltshire,
January 6.

Flora at the font

From Mr Adrian Room
Sir, The Reverend John Ticehurst asks (January 1) why there appear to be so few Christian names derived from fruits and flowers.

I think he is mistaken. Apart from the names he mentions, I personally know a Magnolia, a May, a Rose, a Veronica, and more than one Rosemary. And this is to say nothing of the many other such names, including Berry, Bryony, Fern, Fleur, Jasmine, Jongliff, Lily, Myrtle, Olive, Pansy, Primrose, Tansy and Violet.

The flora thus flourish still in our midst, even if the fauna are somewhat thinner on the ground. Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN ROOM,
173 The Causeway,
Petersfield, Hampshire,
January 2.

From Mrs Elizabeth Douglas
Sir, I know a Marigold and a Willow and was at school with a Peach, while recently I was intrigued to come across a girl called Caniflowwer Jones. But my daughter-in-law tells me that among her pupils there is a little girl called Harvest, which surely embraces the whole world of nature.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH DOUGLAS,
Austen Croft,
31 Austen Road,
Guildford, Surrey,
January 1.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

SANDRINGHAM
January 10: Divine Service was held in Sandringham Parish Church this morning.

The Bishop of Ely preached the Sermon.

Her Majesty presented The Queen's Gold Medal for Academic Excellence at the King Edward VII High School, King's Lynn, to Mr James Green, who was introduced into Her Majesty's presence by Mr R.D. Greaves, the Headmaster.

Mr Raymond Bridges, Mr Neville Farrow, Mr Peter Looe and Mr Arthur Petrie had the honour of being received by The Queen this afternoon when Her Majesty decorated them with the Royal Victorian Medal (Silver).

Birthdays today

The Right Rev J. A. Baker, Bishop of Salisbury, 60; Sir Alan Bowness, director, Tate Gallery, 60; Mr Henry Cecil, mechanician, 45; Mr Neville Duke, former test pilot, 66; Air Marshal Sir Reginald Emsen, 76; Lord Jacques, 83; Mr Alastair Morton, UK chairman, Eurotunnel, 60; Mr Anthony Nutting, former MP, 68; Mr Alan Paton, writer, 85; Mr J. R. R. Tolkien, author of *The Hobbit*, 89; Mr Arthur Scargill, trades unionist, 50; Air Commodore Joy Tamplin, former director, WRAF, 62; Mr R.C. Tress, former Master, Birkbeck College, 73.

Memorial service

Rear-Admiral G. Willoughby, a service of thanksgiving for the life of Rear-Admiral Guy Willoughby was held on Saturday at St Mary's Church, South Woodchester, Stroud, Gloucestershire. The Rev John Cull officiated, and an address, assisted by the Rev David Harris, RN, who led the prayers. Mr John Vaughan and Mr Hugh Willoughby, son, read the lessons.

Party

Lord Mayor
The Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress entertained children connected with the City and London boroughs at a fancy dress party at the Mansion House on Saturday.

Dinner

Medical Officers of Schools Association
Mr David Mellor, QC, MP, entertained the Medical Officers of Schools Association at dinner at the House of Commons on Saturday. Dr Alexander Fernandez, president, was in the chair and Professor J.E. Banavala also spoke. Dr Anthony Tilley was a guest of honour.

Luncheon

London International Boat Show
Mr David Oliver May, Chairman of National Boat Show, hosted a luncheon held on Friday at the London International Boat Show at Earls Court. Among the guests were Mr Jeffrey Archer, Sir David Rowan-Ham and Rear-Admiral Sir Morgan Morgan-Giles, Prime Warden, Shipwrights' Company.

Science report

Pig manure to be made into feed for animals

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

One of the least acceptable by-products of farming is pig manure. It is difficult to dispose of, occasionally escapes into water courses with disastrous results or, because of its value as manure, is spread on fields to the discomfort of people living near by.

A new British company, Compostpro, is planning to build a plant at Holmwood, in Humberside, which will convert slurry collected from farms in the surrounding area into compost and animal feed ingredients.

The process, which is said to have taken 15 years to develop, involves separating the slurry into solids and liquids. Fodder yeast is then used to digest all the material in the liquid, leaving only a residue of brackish water. When sprayed, it can be used as a high protein ingredient in animal feeds.

The solids are fed to earthworms which, having digested them, are recovered and graded. The larger worms are homogenized with a yeast

slurry and dried to provide a free flowing solid suitable for use as an ingredient in fish and poultry feeds, while the residue is sold as manure.

The plant will have the capacity to process the slurry from 100,000 pigs, but there are more than 800,000 pigs in Humberside alone, and the company is hoping to establish up to 12 further plants within the next five years. The Holderness plant will employ 40 people and, since the processing takes place within a closed system, there will, it is said, be little nuisance from smell.

It claims that the process will not only reduce the seepage of slurry into rivers and streams, but will also produce compost at prices competitive with industrial fertilisers.

Farmers taking part in the scheme will be paid for the slurry and so will be able to increase their net margins. The feed ingredients will to some extent replace imported fishmeal and soya.

Nature notes

All the common thrushes are singing regularly again. Blue tits have a song like a pack of cards being flicked, hesitantly at first, then with a rapid flourish.

Great tits have a loud, ringing double-note, like a bicycle pump being used vigorously. The coal tit's song is somewhat like the great tit's, but always has a more rapid, bubbling quality, and sometimes goes into runs of triple notes.

The songs announce that the birds are in their breeding territories, and will defend them against intruders of the same species; but in January they still live a double life, often responding to flock calls and feeding together.

In low-lying fields there are mixed flocks of jackdaws and common gulls looking for earth-



worms. When alarmed, they rise in a confused cloud, but quickly separate out. The black jackdaws wheel and dive low over the fields, their loud clacking cries sounding like a ruck of applause; while the white gulls glide silently above them.

Fawns are flourishing on the banks of streams and ditches. Male bucklers fawn have large, bright green leaves with dense patterns that look like embroidery. Hard ferns have narrow, dark green leaves shaped like fishbones.

DJM

Clifford Longley
Potency of the Anglican spirit

The virtues and vices of persons and institutions usually come in matching pairs: they are two sides of the same coin.

An analysis in the *Church Times* of the present fraught condition of the Church of England by the Rev Bernard Thorogood, General Secretary of the United Reformed Church, runs along these lines.

Its virtue, in this case, is its comprehensiveness, the instinct to include as many views as possible; the corresponding vice is tension and division, as the various constituent factions take advantage of their inclusion to pull it in all directions at once.

A case can be made for regarding the matching pair of virtues and vices in the Roman Catholic Church as its having a highly visible, authoritative, media-friendly figurehead who can command attention and loyalty on the one hand; and an authoritarian, centralized, secretive, repressive and inaccessibly system of government on the other.

In the Free Church system the spirit of participation, equality and democracy, its particular virtue, goes with a lack of leadership, weakness of authority, and absence of any central focus either for ordinary members or the media to identify, relate to, or be proud of.

Mr Thorogood praises the Church of England for at least attempting to have the best of both worlds, with highly visible archbishops and bishops as well as anonymous synods and houses of laity. "To give up that challenge would be a disaster, for it would indicate that there is no middle way between a Roman clericalism and a representative democracy: we all need such a bridge."

This is a type of comprehensiveness too: the instinct to include in one institution as many forms of administration and government as possible. The advantage is that each form contributes its strength, and the disadvantage that they will incessantly compete for dominance. The synodical

has the better of the episcopal system at the moment, so that what the Anglican air is full of is not the teaching and preaching the church is there for, but self-pitying controversy and debate.

That extracts a heavy price. Above all it damages the church's authority precisely where other trends have already put it at risk. So the Church of England appears all too human, and its beliefs no more than the conglomeration of the opinions its members happen to hold, determined by last week's show of hands.

But Mr Thorogood's point is still a sound one. The source of the Church of England's problem is that it is trying to pioneer a better kind of church government, one with more virtues to it, than any comparable model. And therefore, by this theory of a balancing symbiosis of strengths and weaknesses, it also has more vices to cope with.

It has conspicuous leaders, so suffers from their personal flaws; it has argumentative assemblies, so suffers from the tension and bitterness of campaigns and collisions, victories and defeats.

Faced with that, it would help the Church of England through its winter of discontent if it recalled its priorities, and took pride in their being the right ones. On the world map and in the world's history, England is peculiar for being the first to invent an effective system of public participation in government through parliamentary democracy, and an effective defence of human rights through the common law.

With some success, the Church of England has transmitted these qualities to its daughter churches in the Anglican Communion.

It is not surprising that Catholic nations have had much trouble adjusting to democracy, when Catholic teaching was so long opposed to the very idea. Similarly, if nineteenth century Russian Orthodoxy had been open to Anglican ideas in these matters, the Russian church's influence could surely have

brought about the liberalization and enlightenment of Russian society in time to change the shape of subsequent world history.

In South Africa today the Anglican Church is in the vanguard of the democratizing and liberalizing forces.

John Henry Newman is a valid example of the power of this English and Anglican spirit to modify the way the world is. He took this spirit with him when he went to Rome, and planted it there. He has sometimes been called the "Father of the Second Vatican Council"; and Newman's Catholic Church, born 70 years after his death, is closer to this English freedom-loving spirit than ever before in its past.

It is extraordinary how few Anglicans take pride in what is so much to their church's credit, that by sending one man ahead of the trend of events, bearing with him his English and Anglican culture and values, the Church of England enabled so much more of the world to be made safe for democracy and human freedom. Without the Church of England, without Newman, without the Second Vatican Council, the dark age of ultramontane Catholicism and its sinister sympathy for fascism could have continued indefinitely, governing the lives of hundreds of millions.

His is only one of many examples of the potency of the Anglican spirit. Historians have yet to do justice to the central significance of Anglicanism in motivating the England which fought the Second World War, by giving moral shape to the languid tenacity of the national character so that it could recognize its evil opposite, and knew it must stir itself to fight it to the death.

It is another almost miraculous achievement too few Anglicans take pride in. It would be good for them to raise their eyes from their agendas and standing orders from time to time, and take stock of what it is they have, they should be proud of.

Forthcoming marriages

Dr F.W.P. Beacroft
and Miss S.M. Kulkarni
The engagement is announced between Philip, son of Mr and Dr J.P. Beacroft, of Barning Place, Maidstone, Kent, and Sandra, daughter of Dr and Mrs P.S. Kulkarni, of Hockley, Essex.

Mr D.C. Braham
and Miss J.M. Archer
The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Derrick Braham, of Ifield, Sussex, and Jane Morag, daughter of Mr and Mrs Ian Archer, of Reigate, Surrey.

Mr C.R. Brook
and Miss F.M.R. Davies
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Professor and Mrs J.R. Brook, of York, and Frances, daughter of Dr and Mrs J.M. Davies, of Combe, Oxfordshire.

Mr L.W.D. Campbell
and Miss C.J.F. Walker
The engagement is announced between Leo, son of Mr Peter Campbell, of Melbourne, Australia, and Mrs Jo Walker, of Oxford, and Celia, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jeremy Walker, of High Cogges, Oxfordshire.

Celestine G.L. Churton
and Mr R.L. Gledhill
The engagement is announced between Geoffrey Vardon Churton, of Meadow Bank, Aston, Northwich, Cheshire, and Alice Gilchrist, of Manley Cottage, Manley, Cheshire.

Mr S.A. Dixon-Green
and Miss A.F. Staddon
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr Anthony Dixon-Green, of Church Oakley, Hants, and Mrs Angela Dixon-Green, and Anna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Neil Staddon, of Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Bedford School
Easter Term begins today with 1,138 boys in the school. P. Jones is head of school. A. Walcott is captain of hockey and S.W. Costello is captain of the school's football team. The school's choir will perform at the Cathedral of St Nicholas in the Great Hall at 7.30 pm on Sunday, March 13.

Carmel College
Term begins today at Carmel College. Mr R.H. Campbell becomes Headmaster of Ridgeway. Exam Day is February 28. Old Carmel matches will be played on March 6. The boat club leaves for its trip to Israel on March 21. The first performance of *According to Yashil*, an opera commissioned to mark the college's fortieth anniversary, will be given on March 22. The music is by David Stoll and the libretto by Sue Krisman. Term ends on March 24.

Cheltenham College
Term begins today at Cheltenham College and ends on Friday, March 25. The 132 music and art scholarship examinations will take place on February 8, and the 13+ academic scholarship examinations will be held on February 22. The boat club leaves for its trip to Israel on March 21. The first performance of *According to Yashil*, an opera commissioned to mark the college's fortieth anniversary, will be given on March 22. The music is by David Stoll and the libretto by Sue Krisman. Term ends on March 24.

Malvern College
Term begins today at Malvern College. J.M. Taylor is head of school. R.M.S. Jackson is junior chapel prefect. The half-term exam is from February 13 to 16. The examination for the sixth form scholarship is on March 5. The entrance scholarship examination takes place from February 16 to 19 and entries close on January 25. The combined school of the colleges and Malvern Girls' College will perform *Messiah* in Malvern Priory on Friday, March 17 and term ends on March 18.

Moira House
Easter Term at Moira House begins today and ends on March 19. Miss L. Henty joins the staff as head of music. Kirsty Barrett and Anna Willis continue as school prefects. The Ingham school's choir will perform on Friday, January 19, and Saturday, January 20. Full details of these scholarships are available from the school secretary. The Middle School play,

Mr J.M. Edwards
and Miss J.A. Durvas
The engagement is announced between Julian, youngest son of the late Mr Roland Edwards and Mrs Julia Edwards, of Fentiman Road, SW8, and Jacqueline, daughter of Mrs Eunice Durvas, of Sydenham, London.

Mr R.M. Frost
and Miss C.J. Figgis
The engagement is announced between Roger, son of Mr and Mrs R.A. Frost, of St Ives, Sydney, Australia, and Carey, daughter of His Honour Judge and Mrs A.L. Figgis, of Walliswood Farm, Walliswood, Surrey.

Mr J.D. Gravel
and Miss P.M.Y. Savonis
The engagement is announced between James, eldest son of Mr and Mrs D.W. Gravel, of Great Barnetts, Leigh, Kent, and Pascale, younger daughter of M. and Mme J.M. Savonis, of Le Couray, Bléneau, Burgundy, France.

Mr A.W.H. Mackie
and Miss J.C.C. Birchler
The engagement is announced between Alexander William Hay, younger son of Lieutenant Colonel J.H.H. Mackie, RM, and Mrs Mackie, of Teburn St, Mary, Devon, and Johanna, Christina Constance, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs F.M. St. L. Birchler, of Wimbledon, London.

Major M.W.G. Martin
and Miss R.E. Hargreaves
The engagement is announced between Michael William Graham Martin, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, elder son of Lieutenant Colonel and Mrs M.L. Martin, of Dorchester, Dorset, and Rosemary Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs F. Hargreaves, of Gayton, Northamptonshire.

Captain C.B.H. Short
and Lieutenant C.S. Hide
The engagement is announced between Christopher Short, The Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment, and Mrs C.S. Short, of Crookerton, Wiltshire, and Carol, daughter of the late Mr G.R.S. Hide and Mrs Hide, of Duns Tew, Oxford.

Mr J.W. Ruston
and Miss J. Brown
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, son of Mr and Mrs J.W. Ruston, of Montagu Square, Toulouze, France, and Mrs Philip O'Rourke, of Kensington, and Julie, daughter of Mr and Mrs F.J. Brown, of Old Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Sargis Llesianat Commander M.M. Scott, RN
and Miss I.A. Adamson
The engagement is announced between Sargis Llesianat, second son of Mr and Mrs R.J. Scott, of Fareham, Hampshire, and Teresa Ann, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R.E. Adamson, of Maryland, Gwent, and Ras Tanura, Saudi Arabia.

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and Miss S. Roscoe
The marriage took place on January 8, 1988, in London, between Mr Stephen Box and Miss Sarah Roscoe.

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OBITUARY

MISS ELIZABETH BATHER

Giving the police the gentle touch

Miss Elizabeth Bather, OBE, who died on January 8, at the age of 83, became Scotland Yard's first woman Chief Inspector when she was appointed from a senior post in the Women's Auxiliary Air Force shortly after the end of the war.

Made head of the Metropolitan force's women police soon afterwards, she became famous for her determination to recruit women of charm; women who could bring the gentle touch to a rough world.

Elizabeth Constance Bather was born on October 11, 1904, the daughter of the Rev Arthur George Bather, a Winchester housemaster.

She was educated at St Swithun's School, Winchester, and before the war was played her part in Hampshire life as a county councillor and JP. In the latter role she gained the experience of the problems of child offenders that stood her in good stead afterwards, as a police officer.

A fine sportswoman she rode, hunted, fished and shot.

When war broke out she joined the WAAF, and became a senior staff officer at Bomber Command. One of her most important tasks was to go to Canada to help in the formation of a Canadian WAAF. She ended the war with the rank of Group Officer.

When Scotland Yard advertised for its first woman chief inspector, in 1945, Miss Bather was strongly drawn to the job. A diminutive 5ft 4ins, she only just satisfied the height requirement for the force, but on succeeding Miss Dorothy Feto as head of the Met's women police in 1946,



she soon made her presence felt.

This presence was very far from being Amazonian. She astonished conservatives by stressing the need for police women to be feminine. She had the uniform redesigned on pleasanter and more comfortable lines.

From her time as a magistrate she was aware of the value of the women's touch in welfare matters, juvenile crime, and crime prevention. And she encouraged her officers to use their femininity in this kind of work.

Later she allowed the use of lipstick and powder, and for the first time in the force's history, officers were permitted to go on duty without their tunics, in the summertime.

Among her other tasks was to give evidence which helped produce the Wolfenden report on homosexuality and prostitution.

She retired as Chief Superintendent Metropolitan (Women) Police, in 1960.

In retirement she served on Hartley Wintney and Hart Councils.

VERY REV SYDNEY EVANS

The Very Rev Sydney Hall Evans, CBE, Dean of Salisbury from 1977 to 1986, and before that for twenty years Dean of King's College, London, has died at the age of 72.

Born on July 23, 1915, he was educated at Bristol Grammar School and St Chad's College, Durham. After ordination, and two curacies in the Durham diocese, he became an RAF chaplain in 1943.

In 1945 began his association with King's College London, first as chaplain, then as Warden of the College's ordination training college at Warminster, and finally, from 1956 to 1977, as Dean.

Besides his heavy administrative responsibilities, Evans was, during most of his time, ex officio head of the Theology Faculty, responsible for undergraduate admissions, and Warden of the Hostel for Theological Students, which combined the functions of a hall of residence with some of the functions of a seminary.

He regarded himself as pastorally responsible for all the ordinands in the College and spent many hours ministering to them.

His work on the Senate and many other university committees was recognised with an Hon DD, in 1978. He was Public Orator from 1972-1974.

At the same time, he served the Church in numerous capacities, advising especially on selection and training for ordination. This was recognised by his appointment to an honorary canonry of Southwark and the award of a Lambeth DD in 1978. In 1976 he was appointed CBE for his services to religious education.

When he went to Salisbury he saw it as part of his task to bring colour and variety to the interior of the cathedral. He introduced bright furnishings and by 1980 had raised sufficient funds to commission from Gabriel Loire of Chartres the "prisoners of conscience window" which now fills the lower lights in the East End.

Shortly before he retired, he inaugurated a major appeal for the restoration of the spire and West front of the cathedral and played a very large part in raising the first million pounds.

Throughout his career, Evans was in great demand as a preacher and a speaker on theological and spiritual topics, being from 1960 to 1974 Preacher of Gray's Inn, of which he was made an Honorary Bencher in 1977. From 1955 he was a Fellow of King's College London.

He was an engaging man, and involved himself enthusiastically with every aspect of life and art which came his way. He was a great walker and an enthusiastic bird-watcher, and for many years very much enjoyed travelling as a guest-lecturer on Swan's Hellenic Cruises.

He leaves a widow, Eileen and three children.

He had a crusading zeal to bolster Canadians' sense of national identity. "If we don't develop a life of our own we can be overwhelmed by the United States," he once said. "How long can we maintain a separate existence if there is nothing more than a line on a map to keep us apart?"

His other books included: *Canada: Nation and Neighbour* (1952) and *The North American Assault on the Canadian Forest* (1958).

He helped found the Canadian Civil Liberties Association.

PROF ARTHUR LOWER

Professor Arthur Lower, one of Canada's most eminent historians, died on January 7, aged 98.

He was Professor of Canadian History at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, from 1947 to 1959. He was a pioneer in Canadian historical studies, especially those devoted to the country's evolving nationalism, political and economic.

His acerbic wit and provocative style, together with his white goatee, made him a legend among students and scholars.

In 1946 Lower published perhaps his most famous book, *From Colony to Nation*.

He had a crusading zeal to bolster Canadians' sense of national identity. "If we don't develop a life of our own we can be overwhelmed by the United States," he once said. "How long can we maintain a separate existence if there is nothing more than a line on a map to keep us apart?"

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THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Clear moral

Cliches came writers enough trouble in their writing. They are even more of a problem when they insist on turning up in life. How to portray reality when reality has already got up to the back's tricks?

It is a measure of William Nicholson's increasing skill and confidence as a writer that in *The Vision* (BBC2), his morality play about the manipulation of television by an authoritarian power, he chose such a clichéd subject. And he added a sub-plot about deception in marriage which has certainly done the rounds in both life and drama.

The threat of American right-wing Christian fundamentalist broadcasting and the coming of satellite television were the valid excuses to revive the spectre of a media Big Brother. Wisely, Nicholson chose to make the People's Channel more subtle than its real counterparts and though the scenario for its rise in Europe was more convenient than realistic, it allowed some pertinent shots about the present politics of broadcasting and the BBC.

The Vision, ably directed by Norman Stone, may have lacked the brilliance of Nicholson's screenplay for *Life Story* about the discovery of DNA. It was, however, most accomplished in its clear treatment of the moral issues involved.

Dirk Bogarde, fittingly fragile as the manipulated former TV star, and Eileen Atkins as his wife, brought off the domestic drama aided by some fine, tight dialogue and Lee Remick sickly convinced as the missionary media person more to be feared than even John Birt.

Difficult music is both hard to play and hard for the non-specialist listener to appreciate. *Soli and Perukia Play Barok* (BBC2) intelligently and intriguingly made Barok's Sonatas for Two Pianos and Percussion more available to viewers by showing a documentary about the rehearsal before giving us the performance.

Andrew Hislop

Kind of brassy

The 21-strong band Loose Tubes is among the brightest hopes of British jazz. Clive Davis joined them in the studio

Democratic to a fault, Loose Tubes found time during the recording of their new album to vote on the title. The options: *Stickleback* or *Open Letter*. As Colin Lazzarini, the group's non-playing "co-ordinator", moved around the studio, canvassing choices while chewing on a toothbrush, *Open Letter* emerged as the most popular choice.

It was all done in typically extrovert fashion. The members of the 21-piece orchestra appeared to be just as high-spirited in the confines of the studio as they are on stage. Eddie Parker, the bearded flautist, strolled around with his shirt off, looking like an extra from *Woodstock*. Trombonist Ashley Slater, whose bald pate won the Best Haircut prize at *Wine* magazine's recent British Jazz and New Music Awards, demonstrated his knack of telling gruesomely unfunny jokes. Anyone who has seen the band live will know how gifted he is.

The recording session, for the band's third album, ended a successful year which included signing a contract with Virgin Records' EG subsidiary. The band's previous albums were released on their own label, which will, they say, continue to distribute work by other artists.

In August the group achieved recognition of sorts when they performed at a late-night Prom at the Albert Hall, an occasion at which Sir Henry Wood's bust was seen sporting a Loose Tubes sweatshirt. One classical music critic from a national newspaper was seen to doze off during the concert. Among the rest of the predominantly young audience, however, the show was a success, blending jazz improvisation with reggae, pop, African high-life and even an Andy Williams ballad.

A tape of the concert eventually found its way to the American producer Teo Macero, who agreed to direct the recording of the LP, due out in March. Macero, once a tenor player in Charles Mingus's

Composers' Workshop, is best known for his long collaboration with Miles Davis, having supervised some of the trumpeter's most influential recordings, from *Kind of Blue* in 1959 throughout the jazz-rock dabblings of the 1960s and 1970s. The partnership ended only four years ago, with *Star People*.

Macero cheerfully likens the break to a divorce. After a quarter of a century with Davis, he still summons up enthusiasm for Loose Tubes, even though he had never seen them perform before. "They make me think of Ives and Ellington. If Ellington came into the room now he'd really go for them; they have that lovely bright, brassy tone."

"Most young players don't produce that sort of sound any more. But these guys are interested in real composition, real melodies, not just in being super-hip."

He points to the sheet music on the console: "There are some really interesting harmonies in here. They're not afraid of putting, say, an E-flat chord on top of a B-flat in the bassline, little extras that make a difference. I haven't seen a young band in the US that wants to do things like that."

Macero is a notoriously demanding character. But with Loose Tubes he says he has not needed to suggest many modifications. "I don't have to use a big whip. If I have to make a suggestion, it's normally to tell them not to throw away a good melody. Sometimes they take one and use it up in eight bars. I tell them to stretch it out and explore its potential, the way any good composer would."

He was speaking on the fourth and final day of recording, mostly given over to re-takes of an African-influenced tune, "Stickleback", composed by trumpeter Chris Batchelor. Like keyboard player Django Bates and trumpeter Dave Defries, Batchelor served part of his apprenticeship with London-based African musicians. "Stickleback" is something of an affectionate ref-



High good humor: Tuba player Dave Powell makes his feelings clear to his fellow band members in the studio

erence to those days; the band is thinking of releasing it as a single.

The tune is recorded instrument by instrument, taken as a faster tempo than the version performed at the Prom. Macero likes it; the band likes it. Batchelor, however, is not satisfied.

As the musicians crowd into the control booth, a lively argument ensues over how authentic the sound should be. Batchelor wants the rhythm to be more "African". Macero looks on, bemused: the only way to achieve that, he says, is to bring in different musicians. Ashley Slater agrees: "We can't play like Africans because we weren't brought up there. It's impossible."

Despite Macero's reassurances, Batchelor remains unhappy, and the dispute becomes a subtle test of Loose Tubes' democracy. In the end, though virtually a lone voice, Batchelor wins the day. The horn

players troop back into the studio to run through the piece again.

The argument over "ethnic" music in fact raises deeper issues. In its early days the band was criticized for being all white and all male. This was rectified to some extent when South African percussionist Thebe Lipere joined the rhythm section in September 1986.

With the rise of the all-black orchestra Jazz Warriors, however, the colour question has resurfaced. The Warriors, after all, make a point of recruiting young black musicians into jazz. And underneath the clowning and on-stage banter, they have provided the roots for a series of interesting spin-off projects, including the Iain Ballamy-Django Bates quartet, the Steve Berry Trio and the salsa band La Chave.

In fact, the extra commitments have caused some logistical problems, and the full orchestra will be giving fewer concerts in the near future. One way or another, though, it seems that the Loose Tubes story still has some way to run.

CONCERT

Sweet airs

LSO/Davis
Barbican

A suggesting-the-pill philosophy runs unashamedly behind London's latest megacultural event: "A Theme with Variations: A Celebration of British Music".

The theme, it seems, is the trusted twinnings of Elgar and Walton, Tippett and Britten: the variations are three commissioned premieres and a handful of repeat performances for composers such as George Benjamin, Robin Holloway and Simon Holt.

If the programme's heavy sugar content betrays both hard-headed business acumen and a cynical distrust of public curiosity, then no audience, let alone a 90 per cent house, hired by Vaughan Williams and Elgar, should have been made to swallow the pill of Steve Gray's Guitar Concerto.

Gray's chosen brief was a concerto for guitar and large orchestra; his "spiritual home" American popular song from the golden era. This three-movement piece, with gently amplified guitar, was to be a "distillation of big-band thinking".

There wasn't much thought and there was even less distillation. Each movement started promisingly but each one all too soon degenerated into a rapid pattern of predictable contrasts, enervated by the lack of inventive muscle and a failure to exploit the rich orchestral resources.

The crassness of its programming was emphasized by a magisterial account of Elgar's most magisterial symphony, the No 1 in A flat. Colin Davis and the London Symphony Orchestra emphasized the urgency of its making, the exuberant fertility of its development and the might of its harmonic masterplan.

In the evening's overture, too, Vaughan Williams's Thomas Tallis Fantasia, Davis created a truly listening orchestra. If the series draws playing of this quality for even the most time-worn of repertoire, it will not have been in vain.

Hilary Finch

Long charm of the Law

Andrew Billen welcomes the return, next Thursday night, of the slick US television series set in a legal practice

Previewing the autumn schedules 15 months ago, the American entertainment magazine *US*, announced on its cover: "Television Is Getting Better". Anyone who has sampled the mesmerising cerebral poverty of early Eighties series such as *The A-Team*, *T. J. Hooker*, and *Dynasty* will know how richly the statement earned its exclamation mark.

Among the programmes

used by the magazine to justify its claim—*Cagney and Lacey*, *Moonlighting*, *St Elsewhere*—it is *LA Law* that has most happily overturned old assumptions about the way American television looks and sounds. Though set in a successful law firm and featuring the traditional posse of impossibly good-looking actors, it owes almost nothing to other brief-wavers, such as *Perry Mason* and *Matlock*.

If *LA Law*, which begins its second season on ITV this Thursday, is the best American drama series since *Hill Street Blues* exploded the format of the cop show almost ten years ago, that is no coincidence. It was devised by Steve Bochco, the creator of *Hill Street*.

Having successfully repeated in *St Elsewhere* Bochco's deployment of large ensemble casts amid crowded sets, MTM productions three years ago unceremoniously sacked him as *Hill Street*'s executive producer. Fans of the New York police series will tell you it has never been the same since.

Made by 20th Century Fox for the NBC network, *LA Law*'s secret is to exploit the space created by *Hill Street* between the usual TV genres of soap, drama and comedy.

As in a soap opera, plots unresolved in one episode of *LA Law* straddle the next. Yet unlike *Dallas*, whose roller-coaster stories disguise an essentially static drama (for real changes, like the departure of characters, militate against its survival), Bochco's show allows for genuine progression.

Viewers of the first series saw the unlikely blossoming of romance between Stuart Markowitz, an unassuming tax attorney (Michael Tucker, familiar from *Radio Days* and *Tin Men*), and a self-confident career woman, Ann Kelsey



Shoulder to shoulder: the *LA Law* company as it now is

(Jill Eikenberry). To deepen the joke, Mr Tucker and Miss Eikenberry have in real life been married for 17 years.

In the new series, office Lethario Annis Becker, played by Corbin Bernsen, will fall in love. *LA Law*, in other words, returns to American television the virtues of deconstruction and character development found in the long-abandoned single play.

It also handles with some confidence sophisticated light comedy. Thursday's Venus Butterfly episode, quintessential *LA Law*, was written by Bochco and the series' co-creator, former lawyer Terry Louise Fisher, and won them one of the series' five Emmy awards last year.

Quality, of course, rarely alone wins second seasons and *LA Law* has been fortunate in being able to hit the advertisers' target audience of "couch potato yuppies". Fortunately, in writing for them, Bochco has not reneged on his old commitments to

social liberalism. The moral ambiguity of rich attorneys holding sway over the meeked up lives of their less affluent clients is one of the show's premises.

However, although Jimmy Smits's portrayal of an idealistic associate lawyer has won two awards for promoting positive images of Hispanics, *LA Law* enjoys few of the liberal certainties of *Law Grant*. In the new series Blair Underwood is introduced as a ruthless young entertainment lawyer with little interest in cases that will not pay—and he is black.

For some the glossiness of *LA Law* distances it from the achievement of *Hill Street*, where a deliberately moody soundtrack and low lighting achieved a grainy, near documentary effect. But *LA Law* has a visual style of its own and by choosing the production values of TV commercials, Bochco at once belittles and celebrates the affluence and sunshine of his location.

Sophisticated exercise

Triple bill/Royal Ballet
Covent Garden

In creating *Parade*, which formed the centrepiece of Saturday afternoon's triple bill at Covent Garden, Ashley Page seems to have been more concerned with form than content. The actual movement is less frenetic and varied than in some of his earlier pieces, but the structure of the ballet is both complex and sophisticated, and he has succeeded in creating it to a degree which some more experienced choreographers might envy.

The short phrases and tight grouping of the choreography extend to create a flow of continuous movement, evoking Colin Matthews's score. In his lengthy programme note Page states that he impressed the importance of absolute accuracy on the dancers, and it does appear that they are required only to execute the movements he has set, rather than interpreting them or adding anything of their own.

This somewhat impersonal effect is heightened by Jack Smith's brightly coloured costumes which make the dancers, the women especially, seem like mechanical dolls.

Led by Fiona Chadwick and Jonathan Cope, Page's dancers served him well. The cast was the same as at the premiere with only two changes: the up and coming Deborah Bull in place of Gennadi Rozenski and Rosalyn Whittaker substituting for Ma-

DANCE

ria Almeida, who was indisposed.

Almeida's illness meant that Karen Patry stepped in to replace her as Titania in *The Dream*, partnering Bruce Sansom who was making his debut as Oberon. Slight in stature and classical in style, Sansom danced neatly and with a certain elegance.

But, though it was neither faltering nor strained, his dancing seemed somewhat underpowered and light-

weight, lacking in authority. As to his acting it is hard to say, since from where I was sitting in the stalls circle his elaborate make-up completely obliterated his features.

Anthony Browne was the free-flying Puck and David Blaxter, paying proper respect to Ashton's choreography, the best Bottom since Alexander Grant, the role's creator. The quartet of lovers also resisted the temptation to gag and were all the funnier and more tender for it.

Judith Cruickshank



A certain elegance: Mark Silver and (rear) Bruce Sansom

"There comes a time when silence isn't golden"



Whether it's a telephone that doesn't ring, or a cherished instrument that sits silently in a corner, the twilight years of a musician can prove deathly quiet.

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Pray silence for the listeners

RADIO

My cassette machine has a scanner. You press a key and it goes belting through the tape until it comes to a silence of more than about two seconds when it stops and plays on. Very handy, except that on most of radio, 1980s style, it has a hell of a job finding any silences at all.

Radio 3, of course, offers plenty; so does the news and plays on Radio 4, but it goes whizzing past the gaps between this network's programmes because there aren't any. As for Radios 1 and 2 and the locals...

Am I alone in finding this deeply depressing? If not alone, I am certainly one of a minuscule minority, since no-one who took the opportunity

last week to Call The Controller on Radios 1 and 4 ever so much as hinted at the problem and this despite the fact that both these phone-ins might have been designed to illustrate my point.

On Radio 1 they packed 35 calls into 60 minutes and were proud of it. People were unceremoniously faded out in full flow and would occasionally be faded back in again, apparently unaware that this had happened. There were no subsidiary questions and no discussion.

Simon Bates, within whose show this all took place, steam-rollered on, his malediction in awful contrast to his behaviour, so that his controller (!), Johnny Beering, was at one point moved to pipe up plaintively, "please, Simon, may I speak?"

On Radio 4, with Nick Ross

in the chair, things were not a great deal better. The impression of cramming callers in and hurrying them along was intense and unfortunate.

I have yet to hear what Radio 3 made of its inaugural phone-in, but no doubt about it, the other two networks could have learned a thing or two from Radio 2, whose controller, Bryant Marriott, appeared with David Hatch and with Duncan Thomas of BBC Resources as part of the Jimmy Young Show. Callers were not heard, their questions were read out and many appeared to have written in anyway.

It was by far the most relaxed and yet the most informative of these three programmes. Partly this was down to genial, sharp-witted Jim, partly to a break for

music every ten or twelve minutes. Although this meant less talking time, it sounded as if Radio 2 had actually covered more than its competitors. Talk about more haste...

Lore's Day (Radio 4, Saturdays), is a series whose title, if it wanted to avoid a charge of sexism, might have taken into account that its second subject was a Lady. Margaret Howard is talking to members of the nobility who lead ordinary working lives.

Ideally the programmes could have dwelt a little more on how such people come to break away from social moulds and what are the rewards and penalties. But they make engaging listening and there are still two to come.

David Wade

the winter's tale

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MONDAY PAGE

Toytown's new tycoons

Bubble-gum flavoured cheques and loans for dolls houses — Victoria McKee looks at the new American banks that like to say yes to children and to their parents' money.

The line between Wall Street and Sesame Street is becoming a fine one these days, as America is discovering — possibly to its cost. Tiny tycoons are being intensively indoctrinated in special "Dollars and Cents" or "Young Americans Success" summer camps on money management and entrepreneurial enterprise.

And, not slow to latch on to the potential value of such an investment in financial futures, American banks are making a serious play for pint-sized depositors. Laugh if you want at the concept of scaled-down tellers' windows, bubble-gum flavoured cheques and dolls house loans, but behind the cute come-ons is a serious bid for the minds and money of the next generation.

Back in Britain, if schoolboys can land their parents in £20,000 worth of debt by playing the stock market, it can be well worth noting the trend towards tycoon tykes in the United States, which takes root there today all too often crops up here tomorrow.

Two determined women two thousand miles apart are attempting to wean the noisy minority of America on to the doctrine that in unit trusts there is strength. In August, Linda Sanders opened the doors of the Young Americans Bank ("Your future begins here") in Denver, Colorado, and since then the state chartered bank, capitalized at \$14 million, has

attracted 3,500 accounts and issued more than 100 loans and 650 lines of credit to minors.

The average age of savings account customers, who make up 80 per cent of the bank's business, is nine; for cheque account customers, it is 14 and the minimum deposit is \$10. Since the legal age for opening a current account in Colorado is 18 — each state has its own laws about such things — a "sponsoring adult" accepts the legal responsibility and co-signs each cheque, even if merely rubberstamping it in advance. "But we shake the kids' hands and ignore the parents," Sanders laughs.

Sanders, formerly a banking consultant, is president of the Young Americans Bank, but the idea came from Denver cable television magnate Bill Daniels. He got the idea, Sanders says, when he heard about a group of high school students unsuccessfully trying to fund a project — and remembered from his own school days how banks looked "that warm and fuzzy feeling" he craved. So the bank boasts a "Challenge Corner" with computers providing stock market simulations, as well as videos, books and pamphlets on financial subjects.

"We feel that children learn best through hands-on experience," Sanders says. "And our primary focus is educational. We are forming an investment club which will work with a fictitious invest-

ment portfolio." She stresses the "educational" since America, too, has been troubled with underage stock market movers.

"We'll give bicycle loans or dolls house loans, sure, but we make it clear that we are a real bank, and we will repossess the bicycle if the repayments aren't met." Repayments can't be 25 cents pocket money, either, but a minimum of \$10 a week.

Over in New York, a city unaccustomed to being pipped at the post by provincial outposts like Denver, anxious preparations are being made for the birth of the First Children's Bank — an innovative institution modestly financed in 1975 by a group of feminists including Betty Friedan, now dramatically re-capitalized and headed by the country's most dynamic and glamorous banking brain, Neale Godfrey.

Godfrey, a divorced mother of two, makes it sound as if the children's bank was innocently inspired by her four-year-old daughter, Kyle. But it is obviously an idea whose time has come in America. The First Children's Bank (minimum deposit \$250) was due to open this autumn in the plush Fifth Avenue toy shop FAO Schwartz, where miniature mink coats cost \$2,500 and the "birthday party of a lifetime" can be arranged for a mere \$18,000. But testing troubles — including the major hurdle of getting approval — increased the gestation period so that there is now a predicted opening in March.



Money matters: Kyle Godfrey, aged four, learning about credit and debit at her mother's side

Godfrey prides herself on her aggressive banking methods such as offering a \$25,000 table cost as an incentive when other banks were still handing out toasters and electric blankets. She has lots of razzmatazz in mind for her children's bank, to attract not only the children but the indulgent grandparents on whose business FAO Schwartz thrives, and at whom the First Children's Bank is undoubtedly — if indirectly — aimed.

But she doesn't want to talk about the bubble-gum flavoured cheques or any specifics until the regulatory approval comes through, comments an aide. "We will be opening in the spring,"

Godfrey asserts, in a manner that brooks no debate. "We discovered an existing law on the statute books of New York State that says that if you're six years old and can sign your name, you can open a checking account — although parents or legal guardians must be responsible."

She intends to open an account for her daughter, complete with "credit" card, which is actually a debit card against an amount deposited for use in FAO Schwartz toy shops. "The concept of credit is very difficult to grasp because you can't see it," she explains. "When we tried to talk my daughter through it she didn't

understand. But five hundred dollars deposited in a child's name to be used at FAO Schwartz is a great way to teach them about money and credit. Education neglects the money and credit side."

In Britain, where the minimum deposit for children's accounts is £1, the major banks expressed surprise at the juvenile goings-on in American banking circles. "We naturally wouldn't care to comment on what's going on in America," Barclays says. "What's wrong with a real bank?" Lloyds wonders.

But they talk animatedly of what they are doing to woo the youth market which, they agree, is

'We'll lend money for bicycles but we make it clear we are a real bank and that we will repossess the bike if repayments are not met'

viewed with increasing respect here. "We've run our Black Horse Young Savers Account now for a number of years, to encourage children to save, and we give a money box to start them off," says John Robson, the chief press officer for Lloyds. "When they are 18, their money is transferred into an ordinary Lloyds deposit account."

Barclays boasts 900,000 Super-saver Accounts for children under 14 and has introduced a controversial Barclay Plus account with cash dispenser card which allows 14-year-olds to withdraw up to £30 a day from machines or from other banks which have a reciprocal agreement with Barclays. Each account offers a "club" magazine mailed out to savers. "Barclays sees the importance of the young people's market," a spokesman says. "We are building up an advice library of leaflets on money management subjects aimed at youngsters, and are working on a new school video for fifth and sixth formers based on research we did on what they want from a bank — and what they find wrong with existing ones." Godfrey reluctantly concedes that her two-year-old son might be a trifle too young to benefit just yet from her financial schemes for children. "If I gave him a credit card, he'd probably try to eat it," she admits.

And Sanders observes that there is one drawback to the "educational" summer camps. "The programmes look absolutely fantastic but they cost an arm and a leg." The going price for a week can be more than \$1,400 — which could provide a 10 per cent down payment on a Ferrari Testarossa Junior — available at FAO Schwartz.

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How can a widow ease the pain of her bereavement? Jill Truman found the answer lay in writing

"My dear love. Tomorrow it will be exactly four months since you died. It seems like 40 years that I have been battling on alone, and yet your presence is so vivid that I expect at any moment to hear your key turn in the lock and your loud, familiar voice calling 'hello', as you stride along the hallway."

With these words, scribbled in pencil in an old exercise book, Jill Truman began to exorcise the demons of bereavement. After 20 years of marriage, her husband Tony died of a brain haemorrhage in 1975, leaving her with three children and a 10-month-old baby.

Physically aching and emotionally devastated, Truman struggled to come to terms with her loss. "What does it mean to be dead?" she demanded of her husband. "I cannot accept that you are totally annihilated... I often feel your presence so powerfully... Can you see us all and do you think I am doing the right things? If only I knew."

For almost a year Truman talked to her husband through the pages of the dog-eared exercise book. She shared with him her pain and sadness, their children's triumphs and disasters, her financial problems, her overpowering need to hold his hand.

"It was a compulsion," she says today. "I was like an alcoholic. I couldn't wait to get hold of the pencil and scribble."

So cathartic was the experience, that she is about to publish her continuous love-letter in book form, in the hope that it may prove helpful to others suffering similar bereavements.

"Some people find it helps to talk, but I didn't want to talk to anybody. Being taken out of yourself can be quite hard work. I think there's something to be said for the



Life after Tony: at first Jill Truman (centre) and her family went different ways in sadness

Love letters to a dead husband

Victorian business of polling down the blinds and having a period of mourning. You have to try to work through your attitudes to all sorts of things you have never thought out.

The fact that the marriage had its ups and downs did nothing to lessen her sense of desperation after Tony's death. "We were both very volatile. But I think it was probably a good marriage. It was certainly never boring."

They had met as students at Bristol University and married in their early twenties. Her husband worked as a research scientist in the paper and printing industry. "We were married for ages before we had any kids and then we couldn't stop having them."

Today Crispin, 23, is supervisor of a council house for the physically handicapped; Rebecca, 21, is studying costume design; Nadia, 19, is taking a degree in Arabic and Greek civilization; and Annaliese, 13, is at the local comprehensive in Bristol.

They moved there from Epsom about a year after Tony's death. "Somehow I felt I had to establish myself as a different person. And I hate people feeling sorry for me." The move helped the children, too.

"It seemed to me that immediately after father's death we all went our own little ways in our sadness," Rebecca recalls. "Crispin was bullying and I was knocking off school. When we came to Bristol there were so many other problems that we came together as a family."

"Crispin was very quiet, very reserved about it. I didn't

know what he was thinking," his mother says. "Then he got a bit over-the-top bossy. I think he felt he had to organize us. Rebecca wouldn't go to school but in a way that was easier because it was a positive problem to cope with."

"Nadia didn't seem to care for quite a long time and I thought, 'this doesn't mean anything to her'. And then her character completely changed. She became very introverted and stayed like that for years and years."

"Annaliese, of course, couldn't remember her father at all. At first I was determined that we would keep him alive by bringing him into the conversation, but you can't keep doing that because it becomes less and less pertinent." To "celebrate" Tony's first birthday after his death,

she gave each child a photograph of their father and they gave her a box of chocolates.

It was eight years before a friend's bereavement caused her to dig out the exercise book which had brought her such comfort. Having it published — with her children's agreement — has proved something of a trauma, "rather like walking around naked." When she first re-read it she was hugely embarrassed because it seemed "very weepy-wally and sloppy."

She admits that she has become "aggressively single and obsessively independent" in the 12 years since her husband's death. She has begun writing professionally, has had several plays performed and is currently working on her first novel.

"I often wonder what Tony would think of me now. I think he would find me very irritating. I was always a bit bloody-minded and that used to get on his nerves."

She coped with her financial hardships by taking in lodgers and doing a post-graduate year in drama, which enabled her to do part-time teaching and arts administration. "I was absolutely determined that the children weren't going to suffer. But it's quite hard, because if you're a struggling widow with small children, people want you to stay in your place and go off quietly and bring up your family."

The memories occasionally catch her unaware: the time after Crispin's birth when "we couldn't believe anyone had ever done it before and we thought we were just so wonderful." There is still, however, just one thought which she finds agonizingly painful. "It's the fact that if Tony were to pass any of the children in the street today, he wouldn't recognize them."

Sally Brompton

© Times Newspapers Ltd 1988
Letter To My Husband: Notes About Mourning and Recovery by Jill Truman is published by Hodder & Stoughton (£5.95) on February 4.

An empty contribution

From Ms M Currie, Millon Bank, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex

I was interested to read Anna Lawrence's description of how fairly she pays her nanny in cash to evade income tax ("Nanny knows", December 30). I also employ a nanny and pay her out of my net income. This represents a very sizeable chunk of my income, but I need a nanny in order to pursue my legal career.

Unlike Ms Lawrence I deduct my nanny's tax and National Insurance contributions and I also pay the employer's National Insurance contribution. This is to ensure that should she at some future time become sick, unemployed or old, she can claim the relevant state benefits.

Ms Lawrence does not mention National Insurance, so not only is she depriving the tax man but she is depriving her nanny. By all means take

TALKBACK

the Chancellor to task for not giving tax relief to mothers for nannies. I fully support you. But drop the hypocrisy.

From Victoria Hussey, Woodchurch, Kent

It seems to me that Ms Lawrence blames the Government for her own failing to pay her nanny a fair wage, including taxes and a stamp. She is unwilling to meet her responsibilities as an employer: it is she who is helping to downgrade the job of nanny and to make her own nanny a part of the black market economy.

Ms Lawrence has chosen to return to work: she also, presumably chose to have a family. Why should tax concessions be available when Ms Lawrence herself admits that they would probably not make

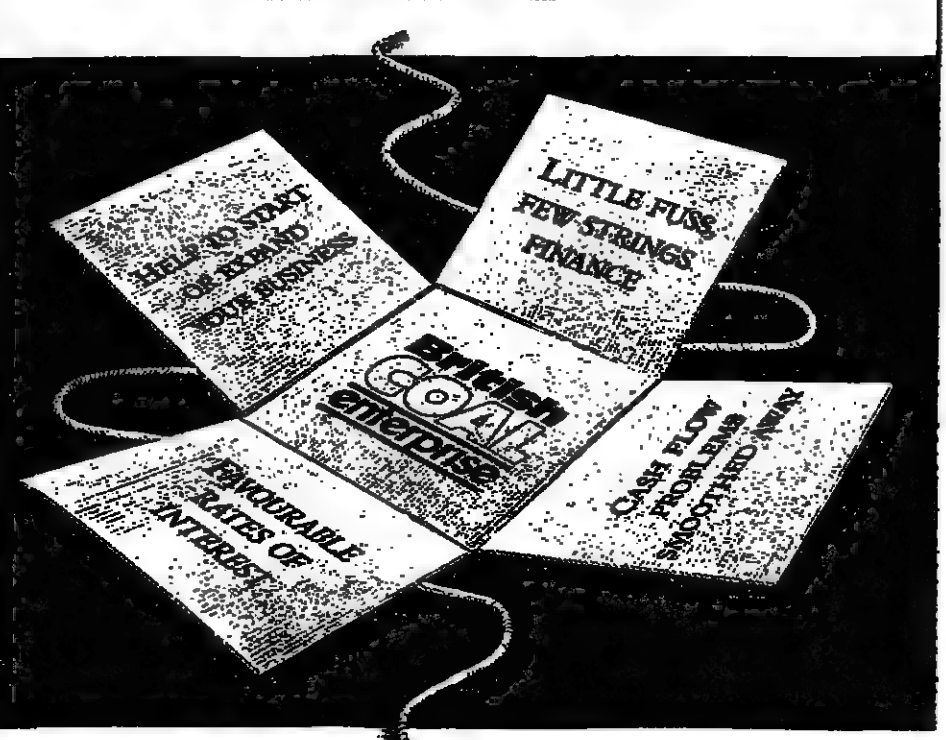
nanny any better off, only her employer? Where is the justice in that?

From Dr Barbara Broadbent, Castle Hill Court, Castle Hill, Prestbury, Cheshire

Anna Raeburn thinks that women are "tripped by image at the best of times" ("Current affairs or current buns?", December 30). Marion Bowman, the editor of *Woman in View* (London based) bears this out, in her assertion that "Relatively wealthy women in the South-east are not going to have much in common with women in the North of England." What's in store for us, then? More recipes for black puddings, rag-rag patterns and advice on how to decorate a back-to-back house?

Must close now; I have to take the whipper for a walk before I get the chip-pan on.

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The right words at the wrong time

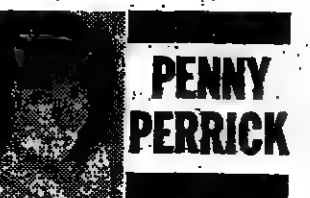
It all started when a writer called Gary Jennings pleaded in the columns of the *New York Times Magazine* for somebody to compile a dictionary called *What People Used to Call Things*. And, my presto, Fred R. Shapiro, the assistant librarian of the Yale Law School was able to tell him the good news that somebody was doing so, that somebody being the University of Glasgow, which is putting together a book called *The Historical Thesaurus of English*. A team of 20 scholars are, at this moment, two-thirds of the way through, and hope to publish by 1991 at the latest.

One of the team is Christine Kay, and she told me some of the things that need to be called something else. "Bib" for instance, doesn't exist in

Old English but was classified as a shade of grey. From which we can deduce that old English speakers were just like contemporary English speakers, with blue skies being in very short supply; and, since package tours to the Costa del Sol hadn't been invented then, nobody had the chance to look up to a blazing blue firmament and murmur: "Flaw, what a scorchers."

In fact, Old English seems a dreary, grey sort of place. Kay has discovered lots of ancient words, all to do with having bad feet, so one gets a picture of our ancestors shuffling around in the rain, plagued by chilblains.

That people's feet hurt all that time ago will come as a relief to women of a certain age



who spent their adolescent years toasting about in shoes known as winkle-pickers, said many parents worried that we would end up with our toes curled over like shrimps. Well, that is exactly what my own toes have done; but since foot trouble would seem to have been with us since the beginning of time, I can console myself that things would have turned out just the same had I stomped around in flat-headed lace-ups — except that I

would not have had as much fun to look back on in my old age.

I can't even remember the term adolescent, or, for that matter, the word teenager, being used when I was one. What we were usually called was trouble. A bit before my time, teenage girls who felt about Frank Sinatra the way I was later to feel about George Harrison were called bobby-soxers, and I haven't the least idea why. Who was Bobby?

Kay says that the number of words in a language increases during periods when knowledge expands, so it is interesting to see where the gaps are. In these times, we seem to have an awful lot of new words to do with information technology and big business and not

enough to deal with emotions. There is no word in English to describe that particular, special sort of pride that one feels in the achievements of one's children. I wonder if there ever was, or if the Anglo-Saxons behaved in the same stilted way towards their little ones as today's Stoenes Rangers (two words fast out of currency).

The Glasgow University team has also discovered that there were always more words to describe bad people than good ones and also that an Anglo-Saxon woman, whose man had done her wrong, would have been likely to mutter "You pig", through clenched teeth — an insult that has echoed down the ages. And I expect it was as well-mannered as it is now.

PENNY PERRICK

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Peter Davalle

BBC1

- 6.50 **Deafbox AM**.
6.55 **Leon Errol** in *Dear Dear* (by).
- 7.00 **Breakfast Time** with John Peel and Selly Magness. Includes national news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news and travel reports at 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; weather at 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25.
- 8.30 **News and Shirley**. American comedy series starring Phyllis Diller, Henry Winkler, 5.55 Regional news and weather.
- 9.00 **News and weather** followed by *Open Air*. Eamon Holmes receives viewers' remarks on the weekend's television output. To participate ring 081-514 0424. 8.50 **Kluge**. Robert Kluge-Sik chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject.
- 10.00 **News and weather** followed by *The Flintstones* (r). 10.25 **Children's BBC**. Andy Crane with programme news and birthday greetings followed by *Open Air* with Patsy Cuthbert and Eamon Holmes.
- 10.55 **Five to Eleven**. Anneke Croxall with a reading 11.00 **News and weather** followed by *Open Air* with Patsy Cuthbert and Eamon Holmes.
- 12.00 **News and weather** followed by *Daytime Live* includes a tip round *Jeopardy 200* in the company of Gerald Durrell. 12.50 **Regional news and weather**.
- 1.00 **One O'Clock News** with Michael Barker. Weather.
- 1.30 **Neighbours**. Cive gets the shock of his life. 1.50 **Going for Gold**. European general knowledge quiz.
- 2.15 **Ironside**. The chief investigates the brutal mugging of his colleague. Ed Bradley after he has dated a beautiful singer (r). 3.00 **Hudson and Wells**. The two cooks prepare three delicious dishes. Their guest is Grace Kennedy. 3.55 **Weekend**. Consumer affairs series (repeated at 7.30).

BBC2

- 8.00 **Coastal**. 8.15 **Daytime on Two**: short-term commissions 8.30 **Young Training Schemes**. 10.00 **For the very young** 10.15 **Playtime** 10.40 **Thelma** about 11.30 **The Norman Invasion**. 11.30 **Three traditional tales**. 11.45 **Bullying** from two points of view 12.00 **History: Cold Wars**. 12.30 **Communicating with music**. 1.00 **Science in action**. 1.30 **For the young** 1.35 **A North Essex arable farm** 2.00 **News and weather** followed by a programme for the young.
- 2.15 **Songs of Praise** from Bangor Cathedral (r). (Cont'd 2.20 **Save a Life**. Emergency first aid series (r).
- 3.00 **News and weather** followed by *World Darts*. Highlights of the weekend's matches in the Embassy World Professional Championship introduced by Tony Gubba 3.50 **News**, regional news and weather.
- 4.00 **Advice Shop**. Margo MacDonald with ideas for inexpensive holidays for the retired 4.30 **McDonald**. Radio and television news and *Daytime Club* details.

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 **TV-am** begins with a pop video preview of 7.00 and 8.00, for a half an hour. Good Morning Britain introduced by Richard Kaye.
- 6.30 **Ordy Britain** presented by Anna Diamond in Australia. After Nine includes advice on health care both before and after pregnancy.
- 8.55 **Thames news headlines**. 9.30 **One to One**. Celebrity mine game chaired by Michael Parkinson. 10.25 **Thames news headlines**. 10.30 **The Times**. The Place... Mike Scott chairs a discussion on an topical subject 11.10 **Late Friday** to the tale of *The New King* 11.25 **Thames news headlines**.
- 11.50 **Ave Mordant**. Necessary? John Bousley examines the roots of delinquency 12.00 **The Sullivans**. 12.30 **News** 12.50 **Thames news**. 1.00 **Chatter Head**. Word association game presented by Jeremy Beadle.
- 1.30 **Face Golden Rendezvous** (1977) starring Richard Harris, Alan Turiak and David Janssen. Thriller set on board a ship carrying no-limit gamblers. When members of the crew begin to mysteriously disappear, the ship's First Officer starts an investigation. Directed by Ashley Lazarus. 3.30 **Thames news headlines** 3.50 **The Young Doctors**.
- 4.00 **Tickle on the Tum**. Village tales for children (r). 4.10 **Five Minutes** Wonder presented by Gabrielle Bradbury. 4.30 **The Real Ghostbusters**. The first of an animated series based on the characters of the film *Ghostbusters*.
- 4.45 **Steel Morning**. Episode one of a six-part serial set in a remote part of the British Isles during the 1930s. Starring Jane Lapotina and Holly Aird (r).
- 5.15 **Blockade**. General knowledge quiz game for

CHANNEL 4

- 8.30 **Schools**. 12.30 **Business Daily**. 12.30 **Just 4 Fun**. Three programmes for children.
- 1.00 **Open Exchange**. Weekly magazine series for Open College learners.
- 2.00 **The Late Late Show**. Dublin's music and chat show.
- 3.00 **Mr Pye**. Episode one of a four-part adaptation of Mervyn Peake's story of a reformed London manager who seeks it as his crusade to bring sweetness and love to the feuding people of Sark. Starring Derek Jacobi and Judy Parfitt (r).
- 4.00 **Merle**. 4.4. Merle Nicholson goes to Bognor to see if holiday camps are still part of Britain's holidaying tradition.
- 4.30 **Fifteen to One**. (see Choice).
- 5.00 **The Muppet** (r). Vintage American comedy series.
- 5.30 **The Beverly Hills** (r). 6.00 **Information Technology**. Alan Doble with the second programme in his eight-part series exploring information technology and how it affects our lives.
- 6.30 **Tales Out of School**. A new five-part series about schoolkids, exploring a key issue relating to schooling in Britain today.
- 7.00 **Channel 4 News**. 7.00 **Comment and Weather**. 7.00 **Breakfast**. Harry and Ralph try to suggest that Sammie Rogers might like some cleaning work. (Oracle).
- 8.30 **Rude Health**. Comedy series set in a small town's medical centre.
- 9.00 **Merely World**. Part one of a new five-part series examining death in a constructive, serious and non-harrowing way.
- 9.45 **Merle**. Edwin Mullins examines John Everett Millais's *Ophelia*.
- 10.00 **Hit Street**. An escapee from a mental institution captures a bus, who had him committed, and tries to make him beg for his life. (Oracle).
- 11.00 **The Eleventh Hour**. Soft Cell. An exploration of the impact of genetic engineering.
- 11.55 **Dona Helena**. Paula. A documentary portrait of a Bolivian peasant woman. Ends at 12.25am.

A fame game shoot-out

TELEVISION CHOICE

● The contestants of *Fifteen-to-One* (Channel 4, 4.30pm) stand in a semi-circle like the targets in a shooting gallery. As it turns out, the shooting gallery is a useful metaphor. The show is strictly low budget: no hostesses in fishnet tights, no star prizes and no snarking Bob Monkhouse with endless jokes about the wife. Apparently devised as an antidote to the claustrophobic darkness of *Mastermind*, the set resembles a field of snow with a pond in the middle and a bright blue sky at the back. The question master is general William G. Stewart, a man behind that very different game show, *The Price Is Right*. Here his function is not to induce audience hysteria but to rattle off general knowledge questions like "Who is the Queen's eldest grandchild?" and "What is a group of quails called?" Three wrong answers and the contestant is out and there are only three seconds to reply. In round two, contestants can nominate their colleagues to receive questions, a form of assassination which helps to narrow the field to three for the final shoot-out. The scoring gets complicated at this point and I will not try to elaborate. But at the end, the original 15 contestants have been narrowed down to one and he/she will go through to the grand final. Devised by a British Television salesman, John Lewis, *Fifteen-to-One* is Channel 4's substitute while the popular and enjoyable *Countdown* takes a winter break. For too long, says Stewart, the intelligent quiz game has been preserved in aspic, reserved for dark halls and reverential audiences. Which seems like another swipe at *Mastermind*. Having invoked the comparison, *Fifteen-to-One* must live with it. (I am not sure about "intelligent": my feeling is that this sort of exercise requires not so much intelligence as the ability to accumulate facts and be able to recall them under the glare of the TV cameras). *Mastermind*, for all its dark halls and reverential audiences, would seem to have the edge in two respects. With specialist subjects as well as general knowledge, it has greater variety. And the black chair inquisition does give a chance for the audience to relish personalities, to see whether the vicar knows more than the bus driver. The sheer speed of *Fifteen-to-One*, in some ways a virtue, means that the contestants tend to remain anonymous. But quiz shows can become addictive, and with five editions a week, *Fifteen-to-One* has every chance to build a following.

William G. Stewart, presenter of the new general knowledge quiz *Fifteen-to-One* (on Channel 4, 4.30pm)

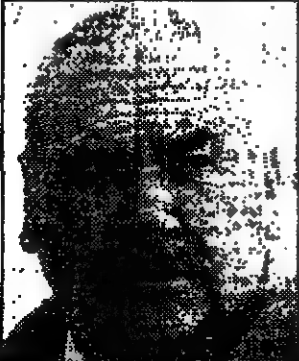
● On a blustery night in February last year, two astronomers manning a telescope in Chile picked up something like the light which had not been seen since 1604. They were so overcome that they forgot how to telegraph the rest of the world. It was, claims the commentary to *Death of a Star*, tonight's edition of *Horizon* (BBC2, 8.10pm), the greatest adventure in modern astronomy. What the couple had spotted was a dying star, or supernova. For years, astronomers had developed theories about the supernova, which might even answer questions about the origins of life itself. Now those theories could be put to the test. From the United States to Australia and a zinc mine in Japan, the programme follows the experts as they sift the evidence and discover how it fits their ideas. "Oh my God, what a trip, man!" exclaims one over-the-moon boffin, though the layman may find some of the discussion too technical to be able to summon up the same enthusiasm.

Peter Waymark

Hooked on drug drama

RADIO CHOICE

● Rob Gittins's play *Miss High Heels* (repeated on Radio 4, 3.00pm) offers no hope at all that a victory is in sight in the war against drugs. The exact opposite. The conclusion it comes to is that the drugs rings have got their fingers round the routes of our cities and the more we can hope for is that they will loosen their grip before it is too late to prevent the Big Sleep. A bleakly pessimistic play, then. But a first-rate one, with a highly complicated plot that demands, and deserves, our undivided attention if we are going to follow the trail of the ex-police officer (Ray Smith) and his sidekick (Howell Evans) through the streets of an unusually sinister Cardiff without losing all sense of direction and ending up in a car-dec. Should you feel that director Adrian Mourby has been extraordinarily successful in picking up the realistic ring of Gittins's dialogue (though his grip does

Ray Smith in *Miss High Heels*, on R4, 3.00pm

slacken between the two long and poorly delivered speeches at the end which recall Agatha Christie on an off day, it is probably because he recorded the play on location. This device cannot make a good play out of a poor one, but it can certainly make a good one like *Miss High Heels* an even better one.

● I suspect *The Best of British* (Radio 4, 6.30pm) will not go down too well with anyone who takes a dim view of some

of the less flattering things satirists like Noel Coward have said about the Brits at home and abroad. It is a disloyal toast to failure. Sport, exploration, warfare, literature: take your pick. There are more thumbs-down in Dave Cohen's and Pete Sinclair's script than you would have found on a busy day at the games in Nero's Rome. I have forgotten to mention that this is a comedy show, and it gets the thumbs-up from me if only for the wicked observations about the British sprinter who spent all his time rooted to the spot because he said he was in training for the medals ceremony, the war poet who penned the line "How I hate these bloody trenches" and was killed shortly afterwards because he made the mistake of reciting this and other examples of his deathless prose to the rest of his mates; and the hopeful darts player in pub tournaments who was told that he would never make it because he did not have the stomach for it.

Peter Davalle

VARIATIONS

- CHANNEL 4** As London on Arcadia 12.00-12.30pm. 1.00pm News 1.30-1.50pm. 2.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 2.30-3.00pm. 3.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 3.30-4.00pm. 4.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 4.30-5.00pm. 5.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 5.30-6.00pm. 6.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 6.30-7.00pm. 7.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 7.30-8.00pm. 8.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 8.30-9.00pm. 9.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 9.30-10.00pm. 10.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 10.30-11.00pm. 11.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 11.30-12.00pm. 12.00am *The Great British Bake Off* 12.30-1.00am.
- GRAMPIAN** As London on Arcadia 12.00-12.30pm. 1.00pm News 1.30-1.50pm. 2.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 2.30-3.00pm. 3.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 3.30-4.00pm. 4.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 4.30-5.00pm. 5.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 5.30-6.00pm. 6.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 6.30-7.00pm. 7.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 7.30-8.00pm. 8.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 8.30-9.00pm. 9.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 9.30-10.00pm. 10.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 10.30-11.00pm. 11.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 11.30-12.00pm. 12.00am *The Great British Bake Off* 12.30-1.00am.
- GRANADA** As London on Arcadia 12.00-12.30pm. 1.00pm News 1.30-1.50pm. 2.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 2.30-3.00pm. 3.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 3.30-4.00pm. 4.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 4.30-5.00pm. 5.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 5.30-6.00pm. 6.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 6.30-7.00pm. 7.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 7.30-8.00pm. 8.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 8.30-9.00pm. 9.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 9.30-10.00pm. 10.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 10.30-11.00pm. 11.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 11.30-12.00pm. 12.00am *The Great British Bake Off* 12.30-1.00am.
- HITV WEST** As London on Arcadia 12.00-12.30pm. 1.00pm News 1.30-1.50pm. 2.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 2.30-3.00pm. 3.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 3.30-4.00pm. 4.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 4.30-5.00pm. 5.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 5.30-6.00pm. 6.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 6.30-7.00pm. 7.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 7.30-8.00pm. 8.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 8.30-9.00pm. 9.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 9.30-10.00pm. 10.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 10.30-11.00pm. 11.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 11.30-12.00pm. 12.00am *The Great British Bake Off* 12.30-1.00am.

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- SCOTTISH** As London on Arcadia 12.00-12.30pm. 1.00pm News 1.30-1.50pm. 2.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 2.30-3.00pm. 3.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 3.30-4.00pm. 4.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 4.30-5.00pm. 5.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 5.30-6.00pm. 6.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 6.30-7.00pm. 7.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 7.30-8.00pm. 8.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 8.30-9.00pm. 9.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 9.30-10.00pm. 10.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 10.30-11.00pm. 11.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 11.30-12.00pm. 12.00am *The Great British Bake Off* 12.30-1.00am.
- TSW** As London on Arcadia 12.00-12.30pm. 1.00pm News 1.30-1.50pm. 2.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 2.30-3.00pm. 3.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 3.30-4.00pm. 4.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 4.30-5.00pm. 5.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 5.30-6.00pm. 6.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 6.30-7.00pm. 7.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 7.30-8.00pm. 8.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 8.30-9.00pm. 9.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 9.30-10.00pm. 10.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 10.30-11.00pm. 11.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 11.30-12.00pm. 12.00am *The Great British Bake Off* 12.30-1.00am.
- TVS** As London on Arcadia 12.00-12.30pm. 1.00pm News 1.30-1.50pm. 2.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 2.30-3.00pm. 3.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 3.30-4.00pm. 4.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 4.30-5.00pm. 5.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 5.30-6.00pm. 6.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 6.30-7.00pm. 7.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 7.30-8.00pm. 8.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 8.30-9.00pm. 9.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 9.30-10.00pm. 10.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 10.30-11.00pm. 11.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 11.30-12.00pm. 12.00am *The Great British Bake Off* 12.30-1.00am.

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- As London on Arcadia 12.00-12.30pm. 1.00pm News 1.30-1.50pm. 2.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 2.30-3.00pm. 3.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 3.30-4.00pm. 4.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 4.30-5.00pm. 5.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 5.30-6.00pm. 6.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 6.30-7.00pm. 7.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 7.30-8.00pm. 8.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 8.30-9.00pm. 9.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 9.30-10.00pm. 10.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 10.30-11.00pm. 11.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 11.30-12.00pm. 12.00am *The Great British Bake Off* 12.30-1.00am.
- YORKSHIRE** As London on Arcadia 12.00-12.30pm. 1.00pm News 1.30-1.50pm. 2.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 2.30-3.00pm. 3.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 3.30-4.00pm. 4.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 4.30-5.00pm. 5.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 5.30-6.00pm. 6.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 6.30-7.00pm. 7.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 7.30-8.00pm. 8.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 8.30-9.00pm. 9.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 9.30-10.00pm. 10.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 10.30-11.00pm. 11.00pm *The Great British Bake Off* 11.30-12.00pm. 12.00am *The Great British Bake Off* 12.30-1.00am.
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Radio 1

- 6.55 **Morning Concert**. 7.00 **News**. 7.15 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 7.30 **News**. 7.45 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 8.00 **News**. 8.15 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 8.30 **News**. 8.45 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 9.00 **News**. 9.15 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 9.30 **News**. 9.45 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 10.00 **News**. 10.15 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 10.30 **News**. 10.45 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 11.00 **News**. 11.15 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 11.30 **News**. 11.45 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 12.00 **News**. 12.15 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 12.30 **News**. 12.45 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 1.00 **News**. 1.15 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 1.30 **News**. 1.45 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 2.00 **News**. 2.15 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 2.30 **News**. 2.45 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 3.00 **News**. 3.15 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 3.30 **News**. 3.45 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 4.00 **News**. 4.15 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 4.30 **News**. 4.45 **Breakfast** (Rory Egan). 5.00 **News**. 5.15 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Yard in clash on Waite payment

By Clifford Longley and Stewart Tisdall

Scotland Yard and Lambeth Palace gave conflicting versions yesterday of the decision to give £12,000 to two men who offered to act as middlemen to free Mr Terry Waite, the missing church envoy who is being held hostage in Lebanon.

Lambeth Palace insisted that both the police and the Foreign Office were contacted before any money was handed over, but Scotland Yard issued a terse statement saying that an aide to the Archbishop of Canterbury sought a meeting with senior officers, but at the meeting they were told the money had already been paid.

The conflict between church and police became plain yesterday as details of the payments to two men, one of whom is now in prison, emerged. Mr John Lytle, senior lay official to the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, admitted that the money was given to Mr John Entwistle and Mr Charles Armstrong.

The men promised to set up secret meetings with people in touch with Mr Waite's kidnappers.

He said: "We began to worry when, despite constant requests, no actual proof of access to Terry Waite or any of the other hostages was produced."

By the time the church became suspicious it had been in contact with Mr Entwistle and Mr Armstrong for four months, and had financed them on several trips to the Middle East.

Mr Lytle explains the discrepancy between his account and that of Scotland Yard by insisting that the Yard must have suffered "a breakdown in communications".

He maintains that there was a general discussion with police about the wisdom of pursuing the matter further or handing over any money.

Lambeth Palace is still continuing its attempts to gain Mr Waite's release and believes it knows which group is holding him. He disappeared on January 20 last year.

According to police, the first they knew about the Waite case development was when Mr Lytle contacted the Yard apparently after talking to the Foreign Office and after £10,000 had been handed over.

Mr Armstrong has been reported as denying having tricked the church.

Mr Armstrong, who until recently had been living at a stud farm in Whitchurch, Oxfordshire, is awaiting bankruptcy proceedings.

Yesterday there was no sign of him, and the new blue BMW he drives was collected by a man who described himself as a friend.

Dr Runcie, who is in San Francisco, expressed support for Mr Lytle but said that because he had not seen media reports it would not be sensible for him to make any further comment at present.

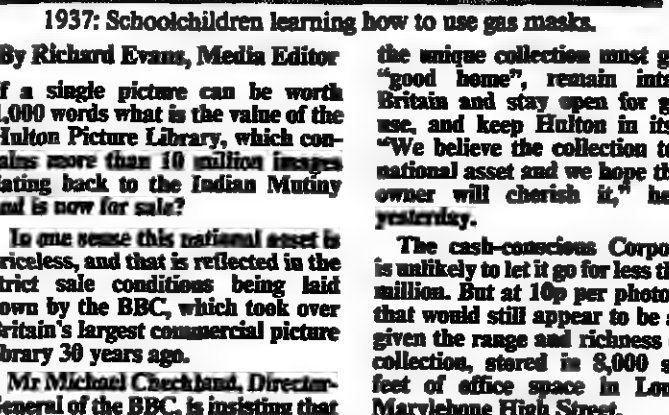
BBC to sell Hulton's priceless images of history



1920s: Dancers being taught the Charleston.



1900: A maid lines up her shot in a croquet game.



1937: Schoolchildren learning how to use gas masks.



1940: Devastation after the Balham bombing.



1948: Boys in the Gorbals, by Bert Hardy.



1924: King George V at the wheel of a yacht.



1948: Boys in the Gorbals, by Bert Hardy.

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

If a single picture can be worth 1,000 words what is the value of the Hulton Picture Library, which contains more than 10 million images dating back to the Indian Mutiny and is now for sale?

In one sense this national asset is priceless, and that is reflected in the strict sale conditions being laid down by the BBC, which took over Britain's largest commercial picture library 30 years ago.

Mr Michael Checkland, Director-General of the BBC, is insisting that

the unique collection must go to a "good home", remain intact in Britain and stay open for general use, and keep Hulton in its title. "We believe the collection to be a national asset and we hope the new owner will cherish it," he said yesterday.

The cash-conscious Corporation is unlikely to let it go for less than £1 million. But at 10p per photograph that would still appear to be a snip given the range and richness of the collection, stored in 8,000 square feet of office space in London's Marylebone High Street.

Founded by Picture Post, the famous illustrated journal, on the basis of several large collections of prints and photographs, "The Hulton" contains some of the world's best-known pictures, including by Bert Hardy, "Boys in the Gorbals 1948" and "Girls at Blackpool 1951".

Also included are a number of famous Second World War pictures which were censored at the time because it was feared that they could damage morale. They include a photograph of a double-decker bus which had plunged into a bomb

crater at Balham, in south London, after a German bombing raid during the worst of the blitz in 1940.

While Picture Post photographs form the cornerstone of the library, the 40 other collections add their own specialist qualities. They include the Topical Press for 20th-century life; Studio Lisa and Serge Lemoine for royalty; Barrow, Seaton and Gordon Anthony for the performing arts; and Felton and London Stereoscopic for places.

The library's images are made available regularly to newspapers,

journals, books, films, television and video. Apart from having an excellent war record - Indian Mutiny, Boer War, First and Second World Wars, and Vietnam - the library is rich in social history from the 1930s to the 1950s. That could be an attraction for the burgeoning cable and satellite television companies.

The BBC wants to offload the Hulton because the Corporation considers that it does not possess the resources or expertise to maintain and develop it properly. But that may not stop an attempted buy-out.

Disputes record shelves 'superpit'

By Tim Jones

Miners in Mr Arthur Scargill's militant South Yorkshire heartland learnt yesterday that British Coal had decided to cancel investment in a new "superpit", Thorne, near Doncaster, because of the area's disastrous industrial relations record.

The news came as the men were told to abandon their strikes in support of three colleagues moved from their jobs for allegedly not working hard enough.

British Coal has spent £34 million on developing the pit but has decided that the further investment of £77 million needed to bring it into production will not be forthcoming until there is agreement on "lasting improvements in industrial relations".

Mr Ted Horton, the area director, is insisting on agreement in three crucial areas before the corporation continues with the Thorne project, designed to employ 700 men producing 1.5 million tonnes of coal a year.

The areas are: agreement on six-day production; an end to the national overtime ban being conducted in protest against the corporation's code of discipline; and an end to wildcat strikes.

British Coal has said it will refuse even to consider beginning work on the proposed £90 million pit at Magsam in South Wales, until the principle of six-day production is conceded. However, the Thorne decision is the first time it has effectively abandoned a pit.

British Coal is expected today to announce the closure of Seaford Colliery, Fif, spelling redundancy for most of the 640 workforce. The pit was devastated by an underground fire in January last year.

British Coal is thought to be about to announce an important investment at the Frances pit near by.

Tory fear of Navy cuts threatening global role

Continued from page 1

21 and the first evidence is to be taken on February 1.

Another member of the committee, Mr Winston Churchill, Conservative MP for Daventry, said yesterday that he intended to "smoke the Government out" to reveal what it was up to.

He said: "If the present rate of warship ordering continues, there is no way that the Government will be able to honour its commitment to maintain 50 ships."

"It's likely that by 1991 there will only be 40. That will make a critical difference for the Royal Navy, because when you have fewer ships, there is less flexibility for around-the-world deployments, such as in the Gulf or the Falklands."

"We would just become a home-based fleet, engaged in anti-submarine warfare activities in the North Atlantic. That would be very damaging."

The Ministry of Defence is currently involved in costings for the next 10 years and sources are admitting that this year it is going to be more difficult than ever to make the right decisions. Many key projects are likely to be "pushed to the right".

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, announced at the Conservative conference last October that he intended to order four more Type 23 frigates, but he gave no timetable. He is now expected to order only one or possibly two in the summer and delay the other two for as long as possible.

At over £115 million, the Type 23 costs three and a half times the price, in real terms, of an old Leander class frigate.

Possible casualties of the present round of costings could include the RAF's requirement for a further 40 of the new Harrier GR5 aircraft.

Whitelaw: unique politician

Continued from page 1

bench today owe their advancement to his advocacy, especially some of the Wetter ones of whom Mrs Thatcher might otherwise have been suspicious.

As Home Secretary, Whitelaw was himself criticised as too wet. In fact he delivered all that a modern Home Secretary could be expected to deliver in terms of sentencing and prison building. But because he would not indulge the Tory Party Conference with the rhetoric they liked, he was given a hard time. On one occasion the Prime Minister did not help, applauding the calls for capital punishment which her uncomfortable Home Secretary was resisting.

As Northern Ireland Secretary he proved an effective fixer. As Employment Secretary he was the figure who Union bosses yearned to hate but could not in practice. And as Chief Whip, Leader of the Commons and Leader of the Lords, he always knew when

to indulge in a loss of temper and when to lead off a fractious colleague with an arm around his shoulders for an enormous grin.

His power has been undiminished to the end. It was Lord Whitelaw who scouted; Lord Young of Griffiths's attempt to become both Party Chairman and Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and it was Lord Whitelaw who pushed the Prime Minister into removing Lord Havers, the sick former Lord Chancellor, after he had been no more than a few months in the job.

In the Lords, Viscount Whitelaw has been a brilliant manager of government business. His own speeches, saved up for the crucial moment, have on several occasions turned a vital vote.

Without him, Lord Belstead, a sound nuts and bolts man without the Whitelaw charisma, will face a formidable task in pushing through a series of contentious

bills on rating reform, housing and especially on education which Lord Whitelaw himself had warned were going to lead to upsets in the Upper House.

His crucial role for Mrs Thatcher though, and the one in which it will be virtually impossible for Mrs Thatcher to replace him, is in the management of business on Cabinet Committees and as chairman of the "Star Chamber", the committee of senior ministers which adjudicates in the unresolved public expenditure battles between departmental ministers and the Treasury.

One Cabinet colleague said: "If you want to get anything through a Cabinet Committee then you have to square Willie first. He does it for the Prime Minister all the time. He has this wonderful way of coming in just at the right point in the argument."

There is simply no one else around impartial enough or trusted enough in the eyes of their colleagues to perform that role for Mrs Thatcher.

DTI shake-up planned to boost smaller firms

Continued from page 1

precise control over which firms receive aid. The Secretary of State has been disturbed that grants have been going automatically to big, profitable companies which would probably have gone ahead with new developments anyway.

Shifting more grant aid to smaller enterprises will stimulate a sector that is seen as offering the best hope for producing more jobs in industry and commerce.

The idea of selective grants to bring more international companies to Britain was welcomed yesterday by Mr Michael Grynlls, chairman of the Conservative Trade and Industry Committee. He said: "It is vital we define our position in order to go on winning overseas projects."

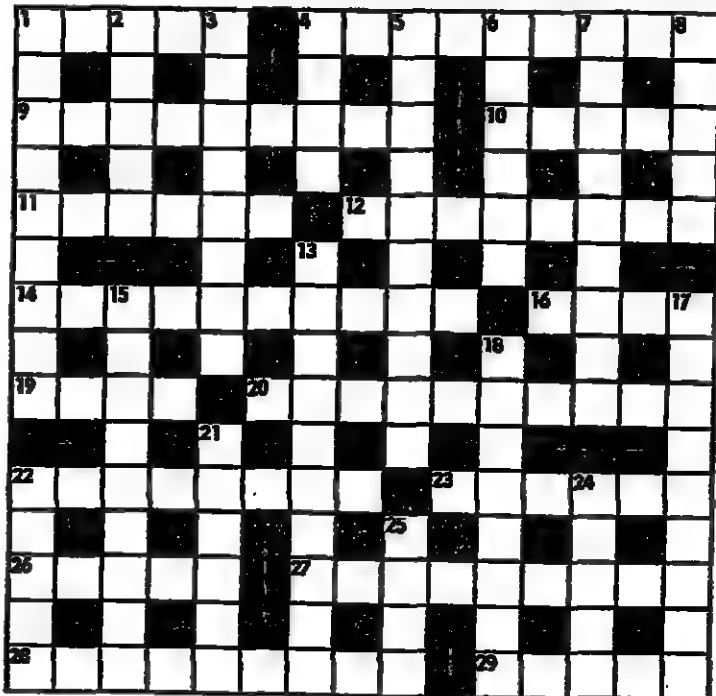
He added that much money had been wasted in regional policy which had not brought the desired results, and the

policy needed sharpening up. A regional version of the Government's loan-guarantee scheme, which helps small firms, would be another measure which could help to improve the economic health of the regions.

More attractive financial terms under the scheme could be offered in the regions, and the present ceiling of £70,000 could be raised selectively to assist companies in their crucial secondary phase of development, benefiting those typically with between 30 and 100 employees.

Mr Bow Group call: Lord Young's proposals tomorrow follows the publication today of a Conservative Bow Group paper which calls for the ending of mortgage interest relief and other tax incentives as part of a radical market approach towards aiding the regions (Our Political Correspondent writes).

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,562



- ACROSS**
- 1 There's nothing in Shakespeare that's wooden (5).
 - 2 "The Player" by 23 ac (9).
 - 3 Ditch a worker for being sarcastic (9).
 - 4 "Let such teach others who themselves..." (Pope) (5).
 - 5 Bring on late in error (6).
 - 6 Complaint of the underworld class (8).
 - 7 Copper and medico being presented to Her Majesty, certain to be awkward (10).
 - 8 A woman returning to have a meal (4).
 - 9 The young attendant's quiet period (4).
 - 10 Check legislation affecting shops? (10).
 - 11 The plant, when working, emits call endlessly (8).
 - 12 No longer prior (6).
 - 13 One absorbed in back-issue, bearing the din (5).
 - 14 Lead weight... it has grave associations (9).
 - 15 He'll get firm with many an individual, the German boss (9).
 - 16 Centre-forward others twist (5).
- DOWN**
- 1 Flower only three times taking a prize (9).
 - 2 A small section showing some expertise (5).
 - 3 Last month, bands and flags appeared (8).
 - 4 Sue, though the compensation appears about right (4).
 - 5 Keeping people split about pollution (10).
 - 6 In October one may possibly see "The Fairy King" (6).
 - 7 The country a comedian made sport of (9).
 - 8 Means of measuring a sovereign (5).
 - 9 Surprised to find a cast off is not ragged inside (10).
 - 10 Drawing that comes naturally (9).
 - 11 Put off a fellow - could be cleaner? (9).
 - 12 A tool one wants badly (5-3).
 - 13 Blow up article to get laid (6).
 - 14 Sound Chinese man who'll believe the worst (5).
 - 15 Low quarters for a beast (5).
 - 16 Wood surrounding a place of entertainment (4).

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- PATIBULARY**
a. To do with bakery
b. Concerned with the gullies
c. Pasture or forage
- TIDY**
a. In some condition
b. The four of trumps
c. A VDU button
- FANDUCULATION**
a. Yawning
b. Pointillism
c. Passing the buck
- APOLAUSTIC**
a. Self-indulgent
b. Dislike
c. Destructive

Answers on page 14, column 8.

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 17,561 will appear next Saturday

WEATHER Most of England will have a dry day and a fair amount of sunshine with some icy patches at first. Wales, north-west England, southern Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sunny periods and showers. Northern Scotland will have brief sunny spells and frequent showers. Strong winds in the north. Early morning frost in sheltered places. Outlook: cloudy and wet, becoming mild and windy.

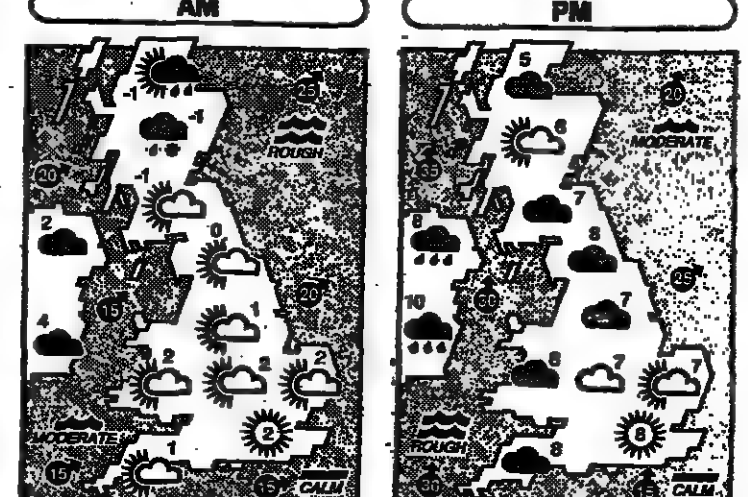
ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
Algeria	18-22	SE	1-2	
Amman	15-20	SE	1-2	
Baghdad	18-22	SE	1-2	
Bombay	25-30	SE	1-2	
Buenos Aires	15-20	SE	1-2	
Cairo	18-22	SE	1-2	
Calcutta	25-30	SE	1-2	
Colon	25-30	SE	1-2	
Hong Kong	25-30	SE	1-2	
London	10-15	SE	1-2	
Los Angeles	15-20	SE	1-2	
Manila	25-30	SE	1-2	
Medan	25-30	SE	1-2	
Mumbai	25-30	SE	1-2	
Nairobi	15-20	SE	1-2	
Rangoon	25-30	SE	1-2	
Singapore	25-30	SE	1-2	
Tokyo	15-20	SE	1-2	
Yokohama	15-20	SE	1-2	

AROUND BRITAIN

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	SE	1-2	
Manchester	10-15	SE	1-2	
Birmingham	10-15	SE	1-2	
Cardiff	10-15	SE	1-2	
Edinburgh	10-15	SE	1-2	
Glasgow	10-15	SE	1-2	
Liverpool	10-15	SE	1-2	
Newcastle	10-15	SE	1-2	
Nottingham	10-15	SE	1-2	
Sheffield	10-15	SE	1-2	
Southampton	10-15	SE	1-2	
Stoke	10-15	SE	1-2	
Wolverhampton	10-15	SE	1-2	

AM



LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 4.44 pm to 7.22 am
Edinburgh 4.23 pm to 6.58 am
Belfast 4.23 pm to 6.58 am
Cardiff 4.23 pm to 6.58 am
Glasgow 4.23 pm to 6.58 am
Liverpool 4.23 pm to 6.58 am
Manchester 4.23 pm to 6.58 am
Newcastle 4.23 pm to 6.58 am
Nottingham 4.23 pm to 6.58 am
Sheffield 4.23 pm to 6.58 am
Southampton 4.23 pm to 6.58 am
Stoke 4.23 pm to 6.58 am
Wolverhampton 4.23 pm to 6.58 am

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday's highest day temp: London 15°C, Manchester 14°C, Birmingham 14°C, Cardiff 14°C, Glasgow 14°C, Liverpool 14°C, Newcastle 14°C, Nottingham 14°C, Sheffield 14°C, Southampton 14°C, Stoke 14°C, Wolverhampton 14°C.
Yesterday's lowest night temp: London 8°C, Manchester 7°C, Birmingham 7°C, Cardiff 7°C, Glasgow 7°C, Liverpool 7°C, Newcastle 7°C, Nottingham 7°C, Sheffield 7°C, Southampton 7°C, Stoke 7°C, Wolverhampton 7°C.

THE POUND

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Notes
London	10-15	SE	1-2	
Manchester	10-15	SE	1-2	
Birmingham	10-15	SE	1-2	
Cardiff	10-15	SE	1-2	
Edinburgh	10-15	SE	1-2	
Glasgow	10-15	SE	1-2	
Liverpool	10-15	SE	1-2	
Newcastle	10-15	SE	1-2	
Nottingham	10-15	SE	1-2	
Sheffield	10-15	SE	1-2	
Southampton	10-15	SE	1-2	
Stoke	10-15	SE	1-2	
Wolverhampton	10-15	SE	1-2	

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PART 2

MONDAY JANUARY 11 1988

THE TIMES

BUSINESS AND FINANCE 17-20
SPORT 26-30

17

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

STOCK MARKET
(Change on week)

FT 30 Share
1424.5 (+51.2)

FT-SE 100
1773.4 (+80.7)

Bargains
30088 (15800)

USM (Datastream)
145.33 (+3.84)

THE POUND
(Change on week)

US dollar
1.8045 (-0.0805)

W German mark
2.9792 (+0.0179)

Trade-weighted
75.3 (-0.5)

US NOTEBOOK

Fears are focused on Friday's figures

From Maxwell Newton
New York

All eyes are now concentrated on the November US trade deficit figure due out on Friday. The central banks, following their highly successful offensive against the dollar bears last week, are acting and talking as if the figure will be below \$14 billion (\$7.77 billion). The markets are acting the same way and gave powerful backing to last week's intervention.

It is difficult, if not impossible, to find another period of four days to match the size of the dollar's climb last week. Intervention could not have produced such a dramatic result alone. But if the November trade deficit comes out above \$14 billion, the credibility of the central banks will be gravely harmed.

Mr Mangel Johnson, vice chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, has publicly forecast a substantial improvement in the November nominal trade deficit. By the beginning of January, the Fed would have had the November estimate to hand. But if the figure comes out above \$14 billion, then, after the battering the bears have received, they would never again trust or respect the central banks.

What is more, the credibility of Mr Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, would be gone. He was the one who said the October trade deficit was an "aberration". He did not have to say that. He chose to do so.

A bad figure on Friday would force the central banks to make a retreat. They would make Napoleon's march back from Moscow look like a pleasant Sunday outing in the country. Meanwhile, Mr Greenspan has furiously retrieved all the cash that was spilled out in October and November, after stock market crash.

Real (inflation-adjusted) M1 has finished 1987 at the same level as December 1986. This stunning reversal has already precipitated the October stock market collapse and now the reversal of the dollar. Personal consumption spending, in real terms, peaked in August. Domestic motor sales in the December quarter were below the September quarter average.

The continued strong growth of employment, which so depressed the bond market on Friday, reflects the rapid expansion of export volumes and no doubt increased stocks. This latter trend may be reversed early this year, as the Fed's money freeze steamroller, having crushed the stock market and the dollar bears, moves on.

The stability of precious metals prices in the face of the continuing slide of the dollar during 1987 has been of great interest. The Commodity Research Bureau index of precious metals prices peaked at 415 in May. By December it had fallen to 350. Once again, the pervasive influence of the Federal Reserve's year-long policy of freezing money growth is evident. Deflation is the dominant force.

The renewed stock market slide on Friday underlines the persistent assessment by keen-eyed stock market analysts that share prices on an historical basis are far too high. The coming week will present important new information. December retail sales figures may contain what we already know: shoppers started to stay at home after October 19 and are still there; the trade deficit has turned and the stock market has a good deal further to fall.

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SE braced for fresh falls

London expected to follow Tokyo and US

By Alison Radic and Bailey Morris

The London stock market will open this morning braced for further falls after Friday's 140.55-point plunge by the Dow Jones industrial average in New York. The drop was the third largest one-day decline in the history of Wall Street.

Dealers said yesterday that London would take its cue from Tokyo, but that the falls in both centres were expected to be less dramatic than that on Wall Street.

London's recovery from the low point reached after the October crash has not been as marked as that in New York, leaving less scope for new falls. The Dow Jones had recovered nearly 18 per cent before Friday's trading, while the FT-SE 100 index closed on

Friday at 1,773.4, about 13 per cent up from its low.

Mr John Phelan, the chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, said yesterday that, given the enormous power of a handful of institutional investors, there was no guarantee that there would not be another market crash.

"I am not confident it will not happen again," he said. "We do not have everything in place to protect the public."

In addition, controversy has grown over the findings of a presidential commission that a small group of big institutional investors, estimated at 12 to 15 companies, was largely responsible for the stock market crash on Black Monday. Using sophisticated new technology to generate

enormous sell orders, five institutions were able to generate more than \$5 billion in sell orders on October 19.

"From 12 to 15 companies can do that, representing only a handful of the big institutional investors, what happens if 20 to 30 companies try the same thing?" Mr Phelan said.

The exchange chairman joined other top US officials in expressing concern over the protection of small investors, given the findings of the commission. Mr Phelan endorsed the recommendations of the commission, led by Mr Nicholas Brady, a Wall Street investment banker, that significant reforms were necessary to regulate a trading system which has changed dramatically over the past seven years.

The central finding of the report, that a huge concentration of power in a small number of big investors had overwhelmed the 50-year-old US regulatory system, prompted a strong response from Congress.

Mr John Dingell, a leading Democrat who will lead the US House investigation, said yesterday that if the huge volatility continues there could be legislation this year.

"I am convinced that the greed is still there. A computer has no morality and a lot of these investors have no morality," Mr Dingell said. "Given the chance to make a fast profit, I am confident they will do the same thing again."

It was generally agreed, however, that if the market stabilizes and there are no more precipitous drops, the reforms envisioned by the Brady commission will be shelved until after the US presidential elections.

This was largely because there was strong disagreement among the key players over the proposed reforms. The White House has already distanced itself from the recommendations, which also proposed daily minimum trading limits. In addition, Mr Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve Board, has said that he does not want the expanded regulatory role recommended by the commission for the Fed.

Another nervous week for dollar

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The dollar is set for a nervous week of trading ahead of the release of the United States trade figures on Friday, with dealers and analysts unconvinced that the worst is over for the US currency.

Expectations are that the November data will show a trade deficit of around \$15 billion (\$8.3 billion), compared with the \$17.6 billion October deficit.

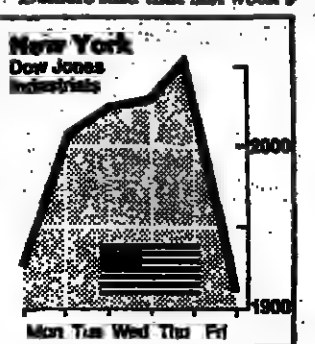
Both exports and imports are expected to have declined in November. But the trade deficit is expected to narrow because of the bunching of consumer goods imports in October, so that they reach the shops in time for Christmas.

Dealers said that last week's

dollar recovery resulted from concerted central bank intervention, and expectations of an imminent turnaround in the US trade accounts.

But, while some dealers believe that the dollar has passed its worst, the majority think there will be further downward pressure on the US currency. Lloyds Bank, in its *International Financial Outlook*, published today, says that the dollar will fall to ¥112 and DM1.43 by the middle of the year, from present levels of ¥129 and DM1.65.

The pound is forecast to rise to nearly \$2 over the next three months, before falling back to \$1.85 by the end of the year.



'Share cheat' prosecutions

By Lawrence Lever

A new wave of prosecutions for making multiple share issue applications will begin this week, when several people will appear at Bow Street Magistrates' Court in connection with the TSB issue.

Further cases are expected next week, when charges relating to the British and British Gas share issues will be heard. One of the defendants is believed to be a solicitor.

The charges are part of the new drive by the Fraud Squad to bring share cheats to justice. It has been pleased with its success to date, claiming a 100 per cent record on all prosecutions for multiple applications.

The new cases will include, for the first time, an instance of a person being charged for using a series of companies to make multiple applications.

One of the defendants is alleged to have incorporated several companies with different names and used them to apply separately for shares in the same share issue.

Meanwhile, Ernst & Whinney, the accountants responsible for vetting applications for shares in the ill-fated BP share issue, have sent a draft report on the issue to the Treasury.

Dee appoints new bankers

By Our City Staff

Dee Corporation, the Gateway supermarkets group, has appointed new bankers to replace the gap left by Citicorp, which was dismissed last week.

The Bank of New York will handle Dee's American Depository Receipts (ADRs), Bankers Trust will become principal paying and conver-

sion agent for the £66 million convertible bonds and National Westminster the principal paying and issue agent on Dee's £200 million commercial paper programme.

Citicorp was dismissed for lead financing the £2 billion bid for Dee from Barker & Dobson. Citicorp had previously proposed a man-

agement buyout of Dee to its chairman Mr Alec Monk.

The B&D offer reaches its first closing date today and on Wednesday goes to shareholders for approval. Dee has warned B&D shareholders against approving the highly leveraged bid, but Mr John Fletcher, B&D chairman, yesterday said he was confident

Rockwood takes over at the top

By Carol Leonard

Rockwood Holdings, the electronic components distributor, has made a bright start to 1988, dislodging Parkway, the advertising services group, from number one spot in Deloitte Haskins & Sells' Unlisted Securities Market ratings.

This is the fifth time the ratings have been issued since they were introduced last September. Deloitte says the latest table, which covers December, saw the DataStream USM Index rally by 7 per cent, although the share prices of many of the leading companies featured in the survey showed little change.

Under Deloitte's system of marking, Rockwood slipped into top spot by the narrowest of margins - 237 points, compared with the 255 points achieved by Parkway. They were closely followed by Missy, the computer systems specialist, on 239 points, Hawthorn Leslie, which reversed in Adam Leisure last year, on 212 points, and Regina Health & Beauty on 200. All these have featured regularly in the ratings.

The stock market crash in October has left its mark on the league table. Deloitte points out that the company in 10th position in September enjoyed a rating of 362 points, and was still a long way behind the ninth-placed, which enjoyed a heady rating of 614 points. On that

basis Rockwood would not have made it into the top 10.

Companies are included in Deloitte's rating once they have been on the USM for at least three months, so as to exclude any sharp movements that often occur in the share price immediately after flotation. Companies are automatically deleted from the ratings after they have been on the USM for more than a year.

Third Market newcomer Propeller, floated off from fellow Third Market member Corton Beach by stockbroker Hestline Moss in November last year,

USM prices - 18

has taken an important strategic step by recruiting a senior designer from Next.

Miss Caroline Horner, aged 35, who worked at the Krizia fashion house, in Milan, Stirling Cooper, Walls and French Connection before moving to Next two years ago, specialises in knitwear design - sweatshirt clothes as well as woollens - and will add a third clothing division to Propeller's range.

As the company's new knitwear design director - she started work there last week - she will complement its existing

management team, comprising Mr Tony Dabbs, the chief executive, who specialises in shirts, and Mr Billy Chadderton whose forte is sweatshirts and T-shirts.

"It means that Propeller will now be branching out into knitwear," Miss Horner said. "It's very exciting, especially after coming from an enormous company like Next where I was just a cog in the wheel."

Propeller, in London's Great Portland Street, designs, manufactures and distributes clothes for GUS, the mail order group, C & A, Debenhams, Top Shop and Top Man.

Its shares were placed at 45p each when it made its stock market debut, barely a month after the crash, capitalising it at £5.6 million. The shares now stand at 38p each.

Mr Mike Keen, the chairman of Corton Beach, is also chairman of Propeller, a company he salvaged from Tern, another of his takeover conquests.

Propeller's profits for 1987, due to be announced shortly, should comfortably satisfy its £400,000 forecast, and followers in the City are looking for pre-tax profits of at least £500,000 in 1988 and as much as £750,000 the following year.



Reforms dominate Chevening agenda

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, left, met Treasury ministers and senior department officials at Chevening, Kent, below, the official residence of the foreign secretary, over the weekend to discuss important aspects of the Budget. (Photograph below by

Julian Herbert). Decisions were reached on several issues, including the level of government borrowing and tax cuts for the coming financial year. Tax reforms were high on the agenda. Among the issues discussed were changes to the system of taxing landlords and wives.



Lawson leaves room for tax cuts

By Rodney Lord, Economics Editor

Weekend talks on the Budget between the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, and his senior advisers at Chevening, Kent, ended yesterday with provisional decisions on several key issues.

Government borrowing has been set at a conservative level for 1988-89, but that still leaves room for tax cuts.

Among the tax options discussed was the reform of personal taxation, including changes to the higher rates and to the taxation of husband and wife.

Mr Lawson was forced at the Conservative Party conference last October to promise action on the reform of allowances for married couples, despite the lack of support for his own preferred option of full transferability between husband and wife.

Changes in the higher rates of income tax depend partly on devising a scale of rates and thresholds which will not lead to unacceptable large gains for tax payers in any particular

band of income. The political difficulties of cutting higher rates have been reduced by rate cuts elsewhere, especially in the United States.

The aim on the basic rate is to bring it down to the long-standing target, set by Sir Geoffrey Howe when he was Chancellor, of 25p in the pound. Whether this will be possible depends on how much scope is indicated once the Budget forecast of the economy is completed next month.

Also discussed at Chevening were ways of under-

pining industry's competitiveness, which has been harmed by the fall in the dollar. One option is to reduce the burden of employers' National Insurance contributions on which the top rate is 10.45 per cent on all earnings above £150 a week.

On indirect taxes and the taxation of savings, many options have been ruled out by Government pledges. Mrs Thatcher has promised not to extend VAT to food, fuel and children's shoes and clothing and has also indicated that mortgage interest relief will

not be abolished. The Chancellor said during the last Parliament that he would make no substantial changes to the taxation of savings without preliminary public consultation.

But the Government may be forced to extend VAT to new commercial building in view of the European Court that zero-rating it is illegal. Final judgment is due this month.

The Budget will also contain the usual crop of minor changes.

Industry's last chance to speak out

Wednesday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council is the only opportunity before the Budget for the Trades Union Congress and the Confederation of British Industry to discuss the economy in open forum with the Chancellor.

The TUC will press for

additional spending on the National Health Service, pensions and child benefit, and will urge the Chancellor not to use the resources at his disposal to cut income tax.

The TUC's package includes £300 million in regional aid, a similar amount for the inner cities, direct help

for the unemployed totalling £750 million, and increases in pensions and child benefit.

Mr John Banham, director general of the CBI, is expected to say that industry's prime requirement is that the present environment of a stable pound and relatively low interest rates is not jeopardized.

BP could try shares alternative

By Our City Staff

British Petroleum's offer document for Britoil, due out by Friday at the latest, could include a share alternative to the present 450p cash per share bid. The matter is under review by BP and its advisers.

BP is eager to press ahead with its bid, despite the Government's controlling golden share. Reports that Britoil might be prepared to compromise over the golden share by agreeing to see it expire at the end of this year were denied yesterday. A spokesman said: "We have always said we wanted two to three years' notice of expiry. There is no change on that."

Britoil also stressed yesterday that it would prefer to maintain its independence rather than succumb at the values presently on offer. It feels the BP offer price and the price at which Atlantic Richfield (Arco), the US oil company, has been buying shares, undervalue it.

BP currently holds 29.9 per cent of Britoil and Arco has close to 23 per cent. Arco's initial proposal, which was welcomed by the Britoil board, was to buy 49 per cent.

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Touche to divide up trust

By Our City Staff

Touche Remnant, the investment trust group, has proposed splitting TR Technology Investment Trust into three separate investment vehicles.

These are an investment trust taking 45 per cent of the assets, a unit trust taking 28 per cent and a new fund taking 27 per cent to represent the 27 per cent stake held by Fimmandale Investments.

The proposals, which shareholders will receive today, are in response to plans devised by Fimmandale, which is advised by Berkeley Govett.

Fimmandale's 27 per cent stake

in TR Technology has been frozen by the courts since mid-December due to inadequate disclosure of ultimate ownership.

Sir Anthony Touche, chairman of TR Technology, said the proposals were in the best interests of shareholders and resolved the problems caused by the apparently conflicting interests of Fimmandale.

Berkeley Govett's proposals, put to TR Technology last October, were dismissed by Touche because they gave increased emphasis to unquoted investments and a significant proportion of high-

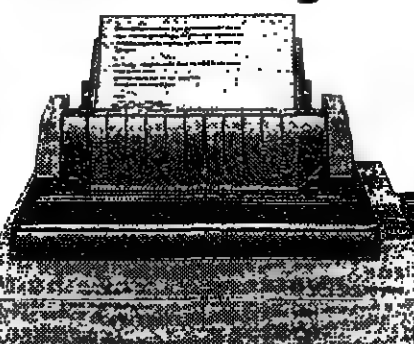
yielding debt or junk bonds. They also planned to change the management of a substantial proportion of TR Technology's assets from Touche to Berkeley Govett, entailing a big increase in management charges, Touche said.

Touche's proposals, framed as an ordinary resolution, will go to an extraordinary meeting of shareholders on January 29. If approved, the reconstruction plan will then become part of a special resolution requiring 75 per cent shareholder approval. Fimmandale's agreement will, therefore, have to be secured.

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T2

ANALYSIS

Guide to the oil assets maze

By coincidence, both Trifont and Britoil have employed ERC, the energy resource consultants, to prepare asset valuations for use as ammunition against their respective shareholders. ERC has valued Trifont at £1.35 billion for Britoil and £1.35 billion for Trifont. If the opening bids are anything to go by, Britoil is 16 times the size of Trifont. But for once shareholders will be in a better position than usual to assess the fairness or otherwise of the two bids.

Beauty, as they say, is in the eye of the beholder. Never was a statement more true than when it comes to valuing oil and gas assets.

The mechanics of such valuations are reasonably straightforward. Essentially, a forecast of annual cash flows from oil and gas production is made. The cash flows are then discounted to allow for inflation and the time factor, to give a present value of future cash flows.

The trouble is, so many assumptions have to be made, that what appears to be a scientifically calculated and entirely objective present value can, in reality, be very subjective.

Take oil prices, for instance. Cash flow projections have to be made well beyond the year 2000. Yet analysts sometimes have difficulty in forecasting what the dollar oil price and the pound/dollar exchange rate are going to be next week, never mind in the next century.

The question of how much oil or gas will ultimately be produced is a little easier. The North Sea has been generous to those who have laboured to find oil in its waters and most fields will produce considerably more than was first thought. The timing of production has often been crucial to project economics, but over the years, the industry has become better at bringing new fields on stream on time.

Having created a production profile, put in the oil price and exchange rate assumptions and calculated royalties and tax, the resultant cash flow stream has to be discounted to produce a present value.

The choice of a discount rate is one of the most contentious issues in asset evaluation. The range used by stockbrokers' analysts and oil companies appears to be between 10 per cent and 15 per cent in nominal terms. These rates are reviewed regularly, particularly to take account of movements in interest rates and inflation. With inflation at around 5 per cent, the real discount factor works out at between 5 and 10 per cent.

The choice of discount factor will be particularly important in Trifont's case. This is because the greater part of its value, possibly as much as 75 per cent, is locked up in assets which will not produce at peak until the 1990s. Wytch Farm, its most valuable asset, will not build up to peak output until 1990, while none of its four potentially commercial gas discoveries even has a gas contract yet.

The further the cash flow extends into the future, the worse the impact of an unduly high discount factor. Mr Roger Aylard, oil analyst at Chase Securities, believes that it is fairer to companies like Trifont to use stringent assumptions on oil prices and the production profile and employ a less penal discount factor. "A high discount rate murders long-term projects," he says. He uses a 7 per cent real rate, to produce a fully taxed asset value for Trifont.

Trifont has a modest spread of blocks, of which the most valuable is the acreage



around Wytch Farm. Analysts reckon its acreage is worth between 15p and 20p a share.

Trifont, which is chaired by Sir Philip Shelbourne, on the other hand, has one of the biggest spreads of explored and semi-explored acreage in the North Sea. In its previous guise as the British National Oil Company, it was regularly awarded acreage on a differential basis, and it kept it all when it was privatized. It therefore has a much larger than usual share of hidden munitions.

Many analysts also include what is known as "tax upside" when calculating asset values on the grounds that exploration drilling can be offset against both corporation tax and petroleum revenue tax (PRT). Where an oil company has more wells to drill than it has income to provide tax shelter, it is disadvantaged.

Each dollar of exploration will cost it the full 100 cents, while its competitors may only be paying 15 cents after full tax relief.

It was this sort of calculation which led to the scramble by the smaller oil companies to buy Forties oilfield units from BP. They were willing to share the tax shelter with BP

by paying BP a price which was somewhat above the fully taxed present value of the oil. BP was unable to drill enough wells to gain full tax relief anyway, so the transaction was to the mutual benefit of everyone except the Treasury.

Since then, of course, the oil price has slumped and purchasers of Forties units have lost out, not just in the value of the oil and tax relief they bought, but also because there are also now significantly fewer good drilling prospects around. Trifont on its own is approximately in balance on PRT and there is therefore no immediate tax advantage to be gained by a purchaser with drilling obligations and too little taxed income, like ERC.

In the 1990s, however, the tax position could be a consideration, but basing a major purchase on possible tax shelter in the 1990s looks risky. It is too easy to assume that the oil price will have recovered by then. It may not, and oil companies will be unwilling to spend money on unattractive drilling prospects just to gain the tax relief.

Then there is the political risk. There have been so many changes to oil taxes in the last eight or more years that no one can be bothered to count them, and that is without there having been any change in the complexity of the government. The next election, due in the early 1990s, adds uncertainty.

The ERC reports may prove that ERC is offering a fuller price for Trifont than BP is for Britoil. We shall have to wait and see.

But what does seem clear is that far from protecting Britoil from a bid, the golden share has made it much more vulnerable by artificially depressing the share price.

The institutions have been glad to sell out to BP and its rival Atlantic Richfield at what look like attractive prices versus the market, especially given the uncertainty over the golden share. This has left mainly private shareholders as the guardians of the 48 per cent or so BP and Arco do not already own.

Private investors lost out when the Britoil privatization flopped. The golden share has ensured that they have never seen full value for their shares. It would be a shame if they were to lose out again.

Also, the battle already looks very one-sided.

Carol Ferguson

GILT-EDGED

Persuasive reasons to leave rates as they are

The Governor of the Bank of England's comments last Thursday really threw the cat among the pigeons as far as interest rate sentiment is concerned.

The gilt market took reports of his speech badly, tracing itself for an imminent rise in interest rates. And though there was a measure of relief on Friday when the Bank, supplying a large money market shortage, left its clearing rates unchanged, the fear that the next move in base rates will be up is now firmly embedded in market thinking.

Mainly, nothing will be done this side of Wednesday's auction, but apprehension that a rise will follow the auction will overhang gilts.

There is a whole clutch of powerful considerations arguing that the next move in rates will be upwards, viz, the economy is set to keep growing strongly; wage settlements, rising last year, are likely to remain on an upward trend; the equity market is well over the worst and set to keep recovering; the balance of payments is set to move further into deficit; and, finally, there is the official desire to keep a strong exchange rate in place to hold inflation in check.

Furthermore it is important to bear in mind that last autumn's reduction of base rates was prompted largely by equity market weakness, and by the fact that the real economy would be badly damaged by the stock market collapse and also by the need to stabilize the dollar; in essence, it was a "crisis" response, and thus eminently reversible if the crisis is seen to have passed.

Mr Lawson has become a devotee of monetary "fine-tuning". And if the economy really has come through the crash unscathed, as is looking increasingly the case, then he is likely to feel happier with interest rates in the 9-10 per cent range that they previously occupied.

But if the next move in interest rates is to be an upward one, there is the acute question of timing. At present there are several persuasive reasons why rates will be left where they are for now.

A rise in British base rates would be regarded as unhelpful internationally at a time when so much effort is being

directed towards stabilizing the dollar. The last half-point cut was undertaken primarily for "internationalist" reasons, as part of a Europe-wide co-ordinated move.

Also, Mr Lawson will want still to show willing on the international co-operation front. Come the crunch, of course, domestic considerations will rule the roost in determining interest rate policy. For the time being, however, such domestic considerations are unlikely to be judged sufficiently powerful.

In this regard, it is worth emphasizing that there is still very little post-war economic data on the effects of extending beyond the end of last year. Mr Lawson is surely likely to want to have some idea of how the economy has fared in the new year before raising rates.

Also, the pound is pretty robust at present with the key £/DM rate not far below the DM3 "ceiling". In these circumstances, any rise in interest rates might cause the "ceiling" to be challenged.

But if an interest rate rise is not yet imminent, when might it come? If the economy does keep growing strongly in the first quarter, then an unexpectedly poor trade figure could hit the pound and thereby furnish a window of opportunity on the exchange rate front for a monetary tightening.

On the other hand, higher rates might be delayed until after the Budget. If this does indeed transpire to be an expansionist tax-cutting one, then higher interest rates may be needed actually to support the pound should the foreign exchange market, taking on board a worse current account outlook and seeming a possible incompatibility in the Government's policy, decide to put the currency to the test.

The last of the three expedient auctions of gilt-edged stock takes place on Wednesday and then the Bank of England will have to decide whether they will become a regular part of the funding process. It could be a finely balanced decision.

One of the main benefits of holding auctions in addition to the traditional tender and tap system is that part of the

funding programme would be put on a regular footing. This would no doubt have been desirable when funding was high, but is less obviously of value when the PSBR is very close to zero.

It was also thought that auctions would be necessary in the brave new post-Big Bang world because the old - idiosyncratic - funding methods would not be able to cope. One of the surprises of the new market is how well the old funding methods have worked. The Bank has managed to handle fairly the demands of the 24 market-makers when taps come to be sold and an increasing proportion of gilts sales has been via taps - small issues of existing stocks.

These taps are a particularly subtle means of funding that enables the Bank of England to continue to exert a degree of influence over the market. The auctions, by contrast, are very far from subtle and deny the Bank any influence at all.

One reflection of this is that auctions may have increased the cost of funding. Under the tender system, if there is insufficient demand for a stock at a given price then the Bank withdraws some of the stock. It may eventually have to sell it at a lower price, but it has a sporting chance of getting a higher price for it later.

With the auction, where there is no reserve, the price has to fall to a level which ensures that the entire issue is sold. The result is that all the stock is sold - but at a cost. The Bank has said it regarded the last auction in October as a success, but it was tough and it could have come as no surprise that the gilt market reacted nervously to the auction announcement.

However, it has always been thought that the benefit of auctions would be that it encouraged participation by overseas investors. We will find out whether this is true on Wednesday - the stock to be auctioned is in the 10-year area generally favoured by overseas buyers. Their participation might be just what is needed to convince the Bank that auctions should stay.

Ian Harwood and John Sheppard
SG Warburg Securities

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

Sterling index compared with 1976 was same at 75.3 (day's range 75.2-75.4)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates for January 8	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
New York	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
London	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Frankfurt	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Paris	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Geneva	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Brussels	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Amsterdam	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Stockholm	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Copenhagen	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Helsinki	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Oslo	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Stockholm	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Copenhagen	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Helsinki	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Oslo	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830

Forward - pr. Discount - dt.

DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Market rates for January 8	1 month	3 months	6 months	12 months
New York	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
London	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Frankfurt	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Paris	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Geneva	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Brussels	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Amsterdam	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
Stockholm	1.785-1.800	1.800-1.810	1.810-1.820	1.820-1.830
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Forward - pr. Discount - dt.

MONEY MARKETS

Best Rates % Clearing Service % Finance %

Overnight High 5% Low 7% Week Best 5%

Treasury Bill (Discount %)

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Prime Bank Bill (Discount %)

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Trade Bill (Discount %)

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UNLISTED SECURITIES

Company Price Div Yield %

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Graduates in sellers' market 'holding out for higher pay'

By John Spicer
Employment Affairs
Correspondent

The demand for graduates by business and commerce is becoming so great that they are hardly enough to go round. But while universities and polytechnics are producing more graduates than ever before — an estimated 117,000 last year — the number of organizations taking on newly-qualified students is growing and many are stepping up their quotas.

According to the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Service (AGCAS), the number of employers recruiting qualified students for the first time is increasing. But a survey into the supply and demand, suggestion and training of degree-holders by Income Data Services (IDS) shows that fewer students are taking up jobs in the first six months after graduation.

Many are delaying job applications until late in the academic year in the knowledge that they operate in a "seller's market". The biggest problem for potential employ-

SALARY RISES			
	1987 (£)	1988 (£)	% Rise
Bank of Boston	13,000	14,000	8
Nthm Telecom Data Sys	9,800	10,500	7
Data Logic	9,600	10,300	7
Express Foods	9,000	10,000	11
Acorn	9,000	10,000	11
NCFI	5,150-10,000	5,450-11,000	3-11
Courtaulds	8,900	9,400	5.6
United Elcubite	8,500+	9,000+	6
United Elcubite	8,500	9,000	6
Tartan Roadstone	9,000-9,500	9,500-10,000	6
Automotive Products	7,500	7,948	6

ers is finding engineering, technology, computing (systems and data processing) and finance graduates.

IDS says the growth in demand is borne out by the figures. The 39 companies surveyed on their 1987 and planned 1988 intakes recruited 2,738 graduates between them last year. The same companies intend to take on 3,245 this year — an increase of 18 per cent.

British Airways is increasing its quota from 205 to 300; National Westminster Bank from 154 to 250; BICC from

100 to 170; United Biscuits from 61 to 117; and Allied Dumbor from 18 to 47. Of the private-sector companies IDS contacted, Coopers & Lybrand planned to recruit the largest number of graduates this year — 450.

Salaries for graduates in more than 50 businesses last year ranged widely. At the lowest end, Pearl Assurance offered £7,364 to graduates with a 2.2 or third-class degree; at the highest, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company offered £18,000.

Outside the City, IDS found

the top salary on offer was between £10,000 and £12,075. Just under two-thirds of the 50 companies surveyed offered salaries between £8,000 and £9,500 to new graduates; 22 offered between £8,500 and £9,500; 11 (eight in manufacturing) paid between £9,000 and £10,000; and six offered more than £10,000.

IDS says many organizations paid higher recruitment salaries to post-graduates. Metal Box, for example, paid an extra £500 on top of £8,250 to graduates with an MA or MSc, and an extra £700 to those with a PhD. Acorn Computers paid up to £5,000 extra to recruits with a Master's degree and up to £7,000 for a PhD.

However, the survey says the October stock market fall hit many City firms and prospects for graduate recruitment this year are "uncertain".

Pay and Progression for Graduates, Income Data Services, 193 St John Street, London EC1V 4LS. Available by subscription.

Jaguar breaks sales record

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

Jaguar achieved its fourth consecutive year of record sales in 1987 as the company benefited from the first full 12 months of selling the latest XJ6 saloon model. Sales climbed by 14 per cent to 46,612 cars, compared with 40,971 in 1986.

This is in line with Jaguar's target of 10 to 15 per cent annual growth until sales reach 100,000 in the early 1990s. But difficulties in achieving similar gains in productivity held back sales in the United States. When the switch to the new XJ6 model was made last May, it was forecast that US sales would reach 24,000 in 1987, just 500 fewer than the previous year.

However, year-end figures show that sales dropped 6 per cent to 22,919, despite sales of 2,848 vehicles in December. Sales of the XJS Coupé were a record 5,380 in the US in 1987 and can be expected to rise further this year, following the launch of a convertible model in May.

Sales in Britain were the highest for nine years, 46 per cent up on 1986 at 11,102 registrations. Outside the US and Britain Jaguar sales are modest, but showed strong growth last year. On the Continent sales rose to 6,550 in 1987, a 51 per cent increase.

Registrations in France more than doubled to 1,026. They were up 130 per cent in Italy, to 614, and were 62 per cent higher in The Netherlands.

In the tougher West German market, where competition between Mercedes and BMW is fierce, Jaguar sales improved by 16 per cent, to 2,156 cars, although it is accepted that further improvements to the dealer network are needed. Jaguar sales are better in Canada than in West Germany — in 1987 demand rose by 31 per cent in Canada, with 2,660 cars being sold.

In Japan, Jaguar's most profitable market, the company's new joint venture sales operation pushed up registrations from 464 in 1986, to 530. Japan is one of the best markets for the top-of-the-range Mercedes models. Jaguar aims to sell 3,000 cars a year in Japan by the early 1990s.

Competition signpost for coal at crossroads

Britain's coal industry is again at a crossroads. Next week the National Union of Mineworkers will decide whether Arthur Scargill's gamble on presenting himself for re-election as president is to pay off. All the indications are that he will succeed, and that for largely sentimental reasons the miners will saddle themselves with a profoundly conservative leadership for many more years.

In the 1960s and 1970s this was expensive for the taxpayer, who was forced to subsidize what should have been a big commercial asset, and for the cost structure of British industry which had to buy its electricity at above world prices. But in the short term it did not much hurt the miners. At the end of the 1980s the miners are the ones likely to suffer while the Central Electricity Generating Board switches to cheaper fuel sources.

The catalyst for change is electricity privatization. The CEBG at present buys about 95 per cent of its coal requirements from British Coal, but ministers have made clear that there will be no requirement on private sector companies to take any specified amount of coal from British Coal.

In the short term a privatized electricity industry is unlikely to have much option but to go on taking the bulk of its requirements from British Coal. Successive governments have insisted that the CEBG invest in power stations sited on the country's large coalfields rather than next to deep-water ports where the economics of imports would make more sense. But in future, unless Britain's coal is competitive, a gradual replacement by imports and nuclear capacity is inevitable.

At present the average cost of coal mined in Britain is roughly twice the world spot price at about £40 a tonne. Contract prices for secure supplies would no doubt be considerably higher than the spot price, but the gap is still unacceptably wide. To bring it down requires a high level of investment on which British Coal is spending about £2 million a day at present. This will be most fruitful if it is accompanied by agreement on appropriate manning levels, favoured by many of the area leaders of the NUM. But Mr Scargill's re-election would make agreement a great deal more difficult.

Whichever way the vote goes on January 22 the best way to ensure that proper use is made of new investment is to inject competition into the industry

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

Philips steals a march on GEC

By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

A consortium led by Philips Telecommunications looks set to have Britain's latest sector of the mobile communications market to itself at least until the end of February.

Band Three Radio which was launched in October, is aimed at small to medium-sized companies which need a simple way of keeping in contact with their fleets of vehicles, whether working nationally or locally.

It operates on the old 405-line black and white television frequency, with companies joining the network being allotted a private channel enabling them to keep in touch with their fleets for want of the operator's chain. It will be a much lower cost than the rival cellular radio network.

In 1986 the Government chose the Philips consortium, which is called Band Three Radio, and GEC Telecommunications to operate two rival networks.

Band Three Radio launched

its service in October, covering the South-east, south coast, the Midlands, Yorkshire and the North-west.

However, the GEC Telecommunications network is unlikely to start until the end of next month, leaving its rival unchallenged for at least four months.

This is because GEC has decided to wait until the equipment manufacturers can provide enough sets built to an as-yet unpublished technical standard laid down by the Government.

The Philips consortium, however, decided to accept a government concession to operate on part of this technical standard, allowing it to open up for business well ahead of its rival.

GEC argues that by holding out until all its equipment meets the finalized standard, its customers will have no fears about being geared into one of the networks permanently.



Bovis acquires Ashby

Ashby & Horner, London's oldest building company, has been sold to Bovis, the P&O subsidiary, for £16 million. Mr Douglas Thornton, the Ashby president, above left, with Bovis chairman Mr Frank Lamp, and one of the company's employees (right), said the deal would give Ashby a better chance to develop further in competitive markets. Founded in 1740, Ashby, which has an annual turnover of more than £45 million, will continue to specialise in smaller building and refurbishing contracts in the City.

New CWS Congress president

By Derek Harris
Industrial Editor

Mr Jim Mason, the chairman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS), has been elected president of the next Co-operative Congress, the movement's annual parliament.

It is regarded as the movement's highest honour. He will be installed at the 1988 Congress in Brighton in May. He comes to office as Britain's co-operative retail societies are continuing their struggle to meet the challenge of rivals such as J Sainsbury.

Mr Mason said that there had been signs of improvement in the fortunes of the movement in 1987 but gave a warning that there was much room for improvement.

Goods vehicle registrations speed to high of 312,730

By Our Motor Industry Correspondent

Commercial vehicle sales in Britain reached record levels last year, underlining the market's recovery from the recession in the early 1980s.

Booyant demand pushed registrations to 312,730, 7.4 per cent higher than in 1986. The previous record was in 1979 with 300,565 registrations. One industry forecast indicates sales will remain strong in the first half of 1988, then fall by up to 5 per cent.

British truck manufacturers, mirroring the improvement in the car industry, pushed back imports for the first time in five years. The importers' market share slipped by 1.5 percentage points to 38.1 per cent. However, in the above 3.5 tonne gross vehicle

weight (GVW) sector, imports accounted for 40.6 per cent of sales, compared with 38.7 per cent in 1986. Last year, this sector saw a close leadership battle between Iveco Ford and Leyland DAF.

Iveco Ford won with aggressive marketing of the 7.5 tonne GVW cargo vehicle, taking a 22.9 per cent share of the sector, less than 300 registrations ahead of Leyland DAF. The Anglo-Dutch company had the consolation of winning the Truck of the Year Award for its new 95 Series.

While sales of the heavier vehicles rose by 7 per cent in 1987, fourth-placed Volvo pushed up registrations by 33 per cent and Sandbach-based ERF recovered very strongly

with sales up 56 per cent.

The Ford Transit did much to trim the overall import penetration in the commercial vehicle market as sales jumped by 15,000 last year to 56,235. While the Transit has a 42 per cent share of the up to 3.5 tonne GVW commercial vehicle sector, second-placed Sherpa managed a modest 12.6 per cent share although Freight Rover production reached a record level of 20,000. More than 3,000 scrapes were sold last year on the Continent, where they have been marketed as the DAF 400 for the first time.

Demand for utility four-wheel drive vehicles rose by more than 7 per cent to 15,100.

Making lists is in

It is a closely argued thing, among those who have time to quibble about such issues, as to whether year-end lists of what's in and what's out say more about the lists' compilers than they do about the latest trends. After all, was Daniel Barenboim tempted to turn his sax into just because Libera painted himself with glue and rolled around in a bathtub full of diamonds? So what can we learn from *BusinessWeek's* soon-to-be published guide to 1988 U and non-U? Apparently cash is in and leverage is out — which has long been obvious to anyone trying to settle any bill smaller than \$400 million. Greed has been replaced by fear, the American magazine says. What's in for management is vision and security, what's out is strategic planning and risk. Lap-top computers are a la mode, mainframes are not, although this might be because many one-time Wall Street wizards no longer have an office to work from. On the social level, *BusinessWeek* predicts that being single is passé and that babies now buy street cred. Forget divorce, have a big formal wedding instead. Trade in your braces for a belt and your Madonna records for some country music. Non-U networking must be replaced by U voluntary work. Now which is the more mind-boggling, the typical *BusinessWeek* reader of 1987 — a divorced, greedy, leveraged, mainframe-user who

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Teddy struck dumb

The revival of the humble teddy bear, of the sort that *Brideshead Revisited's* Sebastian Flyte cherished and Harrods sold out of over Christmas, has taken its toll. World of Wonder, the US toy-maker which specialises in talking teddies and other hi-tech toys, scored a big hit two years ago with Teddy Ruxpin, the stunningly priced, teddy

with a cassette tape in its stomach. Talkative Teddy Ruxpin swept through toy shops and captivated parents' pockets. But now the honey has run out and World of Wonder has filed for protection from its creditors under Chapter 11 of the US bankruptcy code, with debts of more than \$300 million. Teddy Ruxpin refused to comment.

Likes sailing close to the wind and twangs his bow to the beat of Madonna — or the reborn 1988 version, the frightened lap-top carrier who craves cash and security, mashes up the baby food to the strains of Tammy Wynette, and spends his free time thinking up new social work projects? You choose.



Taxing

Anyone who has seen a US tax return knows why even New York's shoeless boys hire an accountant come April, when the Internal Revenue Service starts drumming its fingers for America's tax returns. Finding accountants in Europe who know their way through the maze of US state and federal taxes and the web of allowable tax deductions is not always easy for those whose incomes do not merit the \$200-an-hour devotion of one of Europe's US tax lawyers. But now the IRS, no doubt anxious that some experts might be slipping through the net, is offering tax assistance to American taxpayers living abroad. Roving tax helpers will be available between now and June to answer questions. Why the IRS has got its show on the road just as so many Americans are being sent home, surplus to the new airline requirements of Europe's financial capitals.

Dicing with debt

Former City banker, property developer and convicted Trevor Pepperell is busy launching his second board game. Like his first, it does not have a square marked "Go To Jail": the inmates of Wormwood Scrubs and Ford Open Prison would win if it did. Pepperell, who was sent down for fraud after his London and County Securities became a casualty of the 1970s fringe banking crisis, relied on his fellow inmates to test out his first brainchild, *The Bottom Line*, a board game about gold and property weighted in favour of risk-takers rather than the cautious. Pepperell has been busy inventing games since he left Ford — the prison, not the car-maker — in 1983. His latest, *Lucky Luck*, the object is for the players who begin deep in debt, to gamble their way to a fortune and own all the lottery concessions, clubs, saloons and gaming houses on the board. Again fortune lies with the brave. "The game ends when the bank is broken, which occurs when it has no more cash," the rules say. Sounds much like London and County.

US Senator Joseph Biden must surely be challenging Democratic hopeful Gary Hart for chairmanship by meeting Neil Kinnock this week. Crael was suggesting that Biden, whose own presidential ambitions buckled after he third phrases from the Labour leader's election speeches, might kick off the conversation with: "Stop me if you've heard this one, Neil."

Joe Joseph

Our Treasury Division is now better placed to give you better service.

To usher in the new year, Lloyds Bank's Treasury Division in London has larger and more spacious premises.

As a result, the following additional sales and trading activities are now incorporated in our expanded dealing room in Farners House:

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- US government securities (Telephone: 01-929 2300)
- futures and options trading (Telephone: 01-248 7275)

And, of course, all the business of Lloyds Bank Financial Futures Limited. (Telephone 01-929 1757.)

For further information contact Treasury Division, Lloyds Bank Plc, PO Box 545, Farners House, 25 Monument Street, London EC3R 8BQ.

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Telex: 888137
Facsimile: 01-929 2347
SWIFT: LOYD GB 22 TSY



Lloyds Bank

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Lloyds Bank Plc, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS.

Prices are Friday's middle prices. Change, dividend, yield and P/E ratios are calculated on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.

35.0m	Tonkangana	420	●+1.3	9.6	23.1	10.7
30.0m	Wang	119	●+0.8	9.0	5.3	14.3
550.0m	West Coast	48	-3.4	7.8	15.3	2.2
10.2m	Yarabula	220	●+7.0	10.3	4.7	5.0

TOBACCOS						
30.0m	RAY (ns)	498	...	21.0	4.8	10.4
30.7m	Carrot	178
1,121.1m	Foremost "B" (ns)	378	●-1.1	11.2	3.0	10.5

Ex dividend • Price at Forecast dividend • Interest payment passed • Price at suspension of Dividend and dividend • special payment in Pre-emptor figures in percent earnings • Ex other • Ex notes • Ex swap or new stock • Tax-free ... the significant ones.

01-481 1066

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

University of Exeter
LECTURER IN PHYSICS.

Applications are invited for the post of Lecturer in Physics available from 1 April 1988 or as soon as possible thereafter. The successful candidate will join the Semiconductor Physics Group as an experimental physicist investigating the electrical transport properties of low dimensional semiconductors, an area of study for which the Group at present consists of three staff and associated postdoctoral workers and research students and is led by Professor J C Inkson. The appointee would be expected to contribute to the teaching of the Physics with Solid State Electronics degree.

Commencing salary will be within the range £8735 to £11015 pa on the lecturer A scale £8735 to £13675 pa. Candidates with good qualifications but little postdoctoral experience should not be discouraged from applying.

Further particulars available from the Personnel Office, University of Exeter, Exeter EX4 4QJ, to whom applications (six copies, candidates resident overseas one copy) giving the names of three referees should be sent by 8 February quoting reference no 3539.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
OF NORTH WALES
BANGOR
SR ROW WHILDON
FELLOWSHIP

Applications are invited from practising broadcast engineers and others with appropriate experience for the SR Row Whildon Fellowship for 1988-89. The Fellowship will be awarded for 12 months from 1 October 1988.

The Fellow will have the opportunity to work in the Department of Electronic Engineering at Bangor, on a project involving some selected aspect of the area of research and development in the Department. It is expected that a significant contribution will be made to the project.

The Fellow will receive an appropriate honorarium together with travelling expenses and accommodation at Bangor for agreed periods of time.

Further particulars of the appointment and application form may be obtained from the Secretary and Registrar, University of North Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DQ.

Applications, giving details of qualifications and experience together with the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent to the Secretary and Registrar by 15 February 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF DURHAM
ASSISTANT
TREASURER

Applications are invited from qualified accountants for the post following the retirement of Mr J. C. Smith.

Responsibilities lie principally in the fields of financial and management accounting and require sound professional skills, a commitment to system innovation and development and the ability to communicate effectively.

The salary will be on the AUCS scale, £17,115 - £18,210 per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Deputy Treasurer, University of Durham, Old Elvet, Durham, DH1 1TA. Applications together with the names and addresses of three referees should be sent by Monday 25 January 1988 to the above address.

UNIVERSITY
OF CAMBRIDGE

Applications invited for the following Chairs tenable from 1 October 1988:

SCHRODER
PROFESSORSHIP
OF GERMAN
PROFESSORSHIP
OF MEDIEVAL
HISTORY

Present pensionable stipend £25,620

Applications (10 copies) marked 'Confidential' should be sent with the names of two referees to the Secretary General of the Faculties, from whom further information may be obtained, at the General Board Office, The Old Schools, Cambridge, CB2 1TT.

Closing date: 12 February 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF
SOUTHAMPTONChair of Applied
Geophysical
Sciences

With the help of funding generously provided by Carless, Capel and Leonard plc, Esso UK plc, and Shell UK Ltd, the University proposes to establish this Chair within the Department of Geology. Applicants may have interests in any field of geophysical sciences.

Further information is available from the Secretary and Registrar, The University, Southampton SO9 5NH, to whom applications (10 copies from applicants in the UK) should be sent before 29 February 1988. Please quote ref. no. AJS/535.

DOWNING COLLEGE
CAMBRIDGETEACHING FELLOWSHIP
IN ENGLISH LITERATURE

Downing College, Cambridge invites applications for a teaching Fellowship in English Literature tenable from 1 October 1988. Duties attaching to the Fellowship will include 12 hours college teaching per week and such overall direction of the studies of junior members of the College as the Governing Body may from time to time prescribe.

The Fellowship will be for 3 years in the first instance; it may be renewed for a period or periods not exceeding 5 years and its maximum tenure will be 8 years.

The stipend of the Fellowship will be age-related. Its starting point will be not less than £9,865; it will be not higher than £12,065 during its first 3 years. Thereafter, it may rise in stages to £13,675.

The above stipends attach to teaching office held in the University of Cambridge and are likely to be adjusted conformably with any changes in University stipends.

Application form and further particulars may be obtained from the Senior Tutor, Downing College, Cambridge CB2 1DQ. Applications should be returned not later than Tuesday 23 February 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
Department of Civil EngineeringLECTURER IN
CIVIL ENGINEERING -
Transportation Engineering

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for the above post, having responsibilities for the undergraduate teaching of Highway and Transport Planning. The applicant will also be required to participate in postgraduate and continuing education courses and to assist with general teaching in the Department. Opportunities will be available for research supervision in a research and teaching group in the Department.

Applicants should have good honours degree and either relevant research or practical experience. The salary will be the lecturer scale, £9,280 - £18,210 (w.e.f. 1.3.88), the starting salary depending on age, qualifications and experience.

Further details and form of application may be obtained from the Staff Appointments Officer, University of Nottingham, University Park, Nottingham, NG7 2RD (Tel. 0530-208107) Ext. 2049. The closing date for applications is 31st January 1988. Ref No 1157.

UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM
MEDICAL SCHOOL
CHAIR OF MICROBIOLOGY

The University of Nottingham invites applications for the Chair of Microbiology, which will become vacant in autumn 1988 on the retirement of Professor Francis O'Grady CBE.

The University will be interested to receive applications from people in all branches of Microbiology. The salary will be within the appropriate professional range with membership of USS and, for medically qualified applicants, an honorary consultant appointment with the Nottingham Health Authority will be associated with the Chair.

Full particulars of the appointment, together with relevant documents concerning the Medical School, and application forms, may be obtained from the Deputy Registrar and Secretary, Medical School, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham NG7 2UH to whom applications should be returned by 15th February 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL
TEMPORARY LECTURER IN
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND
SOCIAL HISTORY

This appointment is available from 1st August 1988 for two years. The lecturer will be required to teach in a field of post-1750 economic history and to assist on other courses where appropriate. The Department will particularly welcome applications from specialists in international, European or U.S. economic history. Salary will be within the range £9,280 to £11,070 on the lecturers' scale.

Further particulars should be obtained from The Registrar and Secretary (ref. JC), University of Bristol, Senate House, Bristol BS8 1TH, to whom applications should be sent by 1st February.

HOMERTON COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGEInformation Technology Education
Curriculum Development

Applications are invited for this temporary post to start on the 1st April 1988 or sooner and to finish on the 31st December 1988. The post is in the Information Technology Unit directed by Mr Fred Day. Appointment will be made on the Homerton FE Lecturer (Senior Lecturer scale £9,280-£15,575 currently under review - new scales to be introduced in April 1987).

Duties are concerned with the development of educational software and other microelectronics educational support unit based materials for schools. There will also include some teaching on in-service courses.

Applicants should be experienced science teachers whose primary interest is science education, rather than technology. They should have experience in teaching with microcomputers in science practicals and theory in a secondary, middle or junior school. The successful applicant could be drawn from schools, LEA advisory teams or centres of teacher education, colleges or universities.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Principal's Secretary, Homerton College, Cambridge CB2 2PH, to whom completed application forms should be sent by Friday, 29th January 1988.

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK
Temporary Lecturer in French

Applications are invited from suitably qualified persons for a temporary appointment from 1 October 1988 to 30 June 1990 during the absence of a permanent colleague on leave. Preference may be given to candidates with research interests in 20th-century French literature and/or some other area in the study of contemporary French society and culture. Experience in teaching the French language at tertiary level would also be an advantage.

The appointment will be made in the lower half of the Lecturer Grade A scale: £8735 - £13675 pa.

Further information and application forms can be obtained from the Registrar, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL (0203 523627) quoting Ref No 20/A/87/J (please mark clearly on envelope). Closing date 15 February 1988.

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CHAIR OF LAW

Applications are invited for the Third Chair of Law which is vacant following the appointment of the previous holder to a Chair of Law at the University of Manchester.

The person appointed will be expected to provide academic leadership in some area of Public Law. He or she will be legally qualified and must be prepared to provide leadership in research in this Department and explore opportunities for co-operative research with departments in the new Faculty of Social and Environmental Sciences. The appointee of the new Professor should be relevant to the teaching of English Law but will not be expected to have direct contact with students in other legal systems.

The appointment will take effect as soon as possible. Salary will be at an appropriate point on the Professorial salary scale.

Further particulars may be obtained from The Deputy Registrar, The University, 6 Kensington Terrace, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 7RU to whom applications (15 copies), giving the names of three referees, should be sent by 15th February 1988. (Applicants from outside the U.K. may submit one copy only).

The University of Hull
CHAIR OF SOUTH
EAST ASIAN STUDIES

Applications are invited for a new chair of South East Asian Studies which will be available from 1 October 1988. The appointment will be held in the School of Social and Political Sciences. Candidates should have an established reputation for research in one or more fields of modern South East Asian studies and should be competent in at least one of the indigenous languages of the area. They should be familiar with South East Asia through extensive fieldwork and/or residence in the region and be prepared to strengthen contact with academic and government institutions in the area.

Salary will be within the professional range. Applications (12 copies) giving details of qualifications, experience and age, together with the names of three referees, should be sent by 19 February 1988 to the Registrar (Personnel Office), University of Hull, Hull, HU6 8AH, from whom further particulars may be obtained (tel. 0482 458807).

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OPEN DAYS: 14-15 only (14-15) - January 20th, 9.30 am.
(16 Form Entry) - February 6th, 10.00 am.

ENTRIES CLOSE ON FEBRUARY 1st.
LOWER SCHOOL: 1000-1000 (13-15 yrs).
Candidates to be aged 12 or 13 or 14 with Form 5/6/7/8.
OPEN DAY: January 23rd, 9.30 am.
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Telephone: 01-435 9831

POSTS

Institute of Actuaries

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION

The Institute invites applications for this post, to be taken up on 1 October 1988, or earlier if possible, on the retirement of the present Director. Applicants need not be actuaries, but experience of a professional body would be an advantage.

The Director is the Institute's principal executive responsible for education (both before and after qualification), for the library, and for research. The Director liaises with The Faculty of Actuaries in Scotland, with Universities, and with overseas actuarial bodies.

The Director has a full-time staff of 24 and a budget currently of £900,000 a year. The Institute has some 3,500 student members worldwide.

Further particulars are obtainable from W.W. Truckle, F.I.A., F.S.S., Director of Education, Institute of Actuaries, Staple Inn Hall, High Holborn, London WC1V 7QJ. (Telephone 01-242 0106).

The closing date for receipt of applications is 10 February 1988.

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It is expected that all three officers will be based in Leicester, although an alternative location for the Head of Guidance could be considered.

Further details from UDACE, Christopher House, 94B London Road, Leicester LE2 0QS (tel. 0533-542845). Applications to be returned by 5 February.

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Further details and application form may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, St. Helen's School, Northwood, Middlesex HA6 3AS. The closing date for applications will be 30th January 1988.

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Applications are invited for the Research Fellowship, funded jointly by GEC and the Fellowship of Engineering, to be held in Somerville College and the Department of Engineering Science. The successful applicant will have a PhD in Engineering or Physics or equivalent research experience, and will be expected to select a research topic in opto-electronics which can be associated with existing (Volume Holography, Scanning Optical Microscopy and Integrate Optics) or closely related work.

The Fellow will also be required to teach up to a maximum of five hours a week during term for the College. If the successful applicant is a woman, she will become a Research Fellow of Somerville College; if a man, a Research Lecturer in the College.

The appointment will be for a period of five years with effect from 1 October 1988 or earlier. Stipend (pensionable and age-related) in the range of £12,350 - £17,275 will be paid, plus housing in College, or full board and an accommodation allowance.

Applications, including CV and the name of three referees, should be forwarded to Prof. E.G.S. Paige, Department of Engineering Science, Parks Road, Oxford OX1 3PJ, from whom further particulars can be obtained. Closing date for applications: 1 February 1988. Referees should be sent direct, to arrive not later than 1 February 1988.

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Diploma in Arts Administration a professional course for graduates with some experience in arts administration (1 year full-time including one term on secondment).

Short Professional Courses a number of intensive short courses are offered by the Department and held in the Barbican premises. In addition there is a programme of occasional forums, one-day courses and short courses offered in conjunction with other organisations.

Details can be obtained by sending a large addressed envelope to: The Department of Arts Policy Management City University Level 12 Frohisher Crescent Barbican, London EC2Y 5BH.

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BURSAR - ROYAL RUSSELL SCHOOL

Applications are invited for the post of Bursar and Clerk to the Governors at the Royal Russell School, which is an independent co-educational day and boarding school of 600 pupils.

The post becomes vacant on 1st September 1988, but the successful applicant will take up appointment before then to allow for a period of overlap before the present holder's retirement.

Reporting to the Governors and working as a senior member of the executive team, the Bursar will be responsible for the financial management and general business administration of the School. Candidates should therefore have significant, relevant experience and be able to demonstrate an ability to make a positive contribution to the School's successful development.

Application forms from The Clerk to the Governors ROYAL RUSSELL SCHOOL, COOMBE LANE, CROYDON, SURREY, CR9 5BX.

ST MARY'S HALL, BRIGHTON

Appointment of Head

The Governors invite applications for the post of Head which will become vacant in September 1988, on the retirement of the present Headmaster.

The School is a Church of England Independent day and boarding school for girls aged 5-18 years. There is also a Pre-School Department.

Applicants must be graduates and communicant members of the Church of England. There are at present 350 girls in the school of whom 110 are boarders.

Further particulars and Application Form may be obtained from The Clerk to the Governors St Mary's Hall Brighton BN2 5JF

POCKLINGTON SCHOOL near York

Member of Headmasters' Conference

Applications are invited for the post of BURSAR AND CLERK TO THE GOVERNORS

Starting date will be towards the end of the summer term, 1988. The post becomes vacant owing to the retirement of the present Bursar and Clerk.

Further details can be obtained from: The Clerk to the Governors, Pocklington School, West Green, Pocklington, York, YO4 2NJ. Tel: (0758) 302794. Closing date for applications: 18th February, 1988

ST. MARY'S SCHOOL CALNE

BURSAR

Applications are invited for the post of Bursar of this School (320 girls, aged 11-18, mainly boarders, and a junior school for day girls and boys), which will become vacant on 1st September 1988. To allow for a handover period the appointment will take effect from 1st June or by mutual arrangement after that.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from The Clerk to the Governors, St. Mary's School, Calne, Wiltshire SN11 0DF. Closing date for completed application forms 1st February 1988.

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FELIXSTOWE COLLEGE FELIXSTOWE SUFFOLK

APPOINTMENT OF HEAD

The Governors of Felixstowe College invite applications for the Headship which will become vacant following the resignation of the present Headmaster.

It is hoped that the post will be filled from 1st September 1988.

For full particulars and application form please telephone or write to the Secretary to the Governors, The Allied Schools, 42, South Bar Street, Banbury, Oxon OX16 9XL. (Telephone Banbury (0295) 56441).

Closing date for applications, 5th February 1988.

ST. BEES SCHOOL, CUMBRIA

HEADSHIP

Applications are invited for the Headship of St. Bees School which will become vacant on the 1st September 1988.

St. Bees is an Independent Boarding and Day School for boys and girls represented on the Governing Bodies Association. The present Headmaster is a member of the Headmasters' Conference. Particulars of appointment and application forms (which must be lodged by the 8th February 1988) may be obtained from

W.F. Gough Esq., Clerk to the Governors, 38/42 Lowther Street, Whitehaven, Cumbria CA28 7JL.

KELLY COLLEGE TAVISTOCK, DEVON

(H.M.C. Boarding and Day, 275 boys, 65 sixth form girls)

ST. MICHAEL'S SCHOOL TAVISTOCK (I.S.A.L. 120 pupils)

The Governors invite applications for the post of BURSAR

which will become vacant on 1st September 1988 on the retirement of Lieutenant-Colonel E.J. Rogers. Candidates should be aged between 35 and 50 and should have had wide administrative and financial experience with a high degree of responsibility.

Further particulars and application forms are obtainable from The Headmaster, St. Michael's School, Tavistock, Devon PL9 4BQ. Completed applications should be returned before 5th February 1988.

CHEADLE HULME SCHOOL, H.M.C. Co-Educational

Part Boarding, Sixth Form 250. Required for September, 1988.

HEAD OF PHYSICS

Owing to the retirement of present holder, Large vacant post of 3 teachers and 2 technicians in the department, 4 vacancies.

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Write giving curriculum vitae and names of two referees to: The Headmaster, Chedale Hulme School, Chedale Road, Chedale Hulme, Cheshire, S82 6ET.

RADLEY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AND EXHIBITIONS 1988

Up to 5 Music, 12 Academic and 6 Thompson Awards will be offered for examination in February and March 1988, ranging in value from full fees to £500 p.a. Candidates must be under 14 on 1st September, 1988. Further details and application forms (Closing Dates January 25th (Music) and February 8th (Academic)) from: The Warden's Secretary, Radley College Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 2HR. 0235-20294

THE BEVERIDGE SCHOOL, S.P.S.T., R.S.A. SCHOOL, 17, Belvedere Road, Liverpool, L8 3JT.

DEPUTY HEAD. Applications are invited for the Deputy Headship which will become vacant on 1st September 1988. Please apply in writing, as soon as possible, enclosing the names and addresses of two referees, a curriculum vitae and a stamped addressed envelope, to The Headmaster.

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There is provision for weekly boarders and the school is open to all denominations. Transport is available from Hull and Beverley.

Sound academic tuition from highly qualified staff and a full range of subjects is taught to GCSE. There is an excellent games record and a good tradition in music, drama, and art. Rise Hall, a Georgian mansion in extensive grounds within easy reach of Hull, Beverley and Hornsea, offers a caring, Christian environment, combining discipline with freedom and friendliness and encouraging a sense of responsibility and initiative.

Parents are most welcome to visit the school by appointment, and an entrance examination will be held during the last week in January. For further information and to obtain a copy of the school prospectus please contact the Headmistress, Rise Hall, Rise HULL, N.Humberside HU11 5BL.

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This prestigious financial house is looking for a bright flexible young secretary.

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Professional association seeks well educated Secretarial Assistant with accurate typing, mainly for audio/W.P. (50 wpm minimum). Small friendly team. About 1 1/2 hours per week over 5 days (Monday-Friday) by arrangement. 4 weeks annual leave plus an extra week at Christmas and long bank holidays.

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Experienced receptionist/secretary required by international medical and scientific charity. Responsibilities will include reception of guests and participants in meetings, the booking of accommodation and conference facilities and operation of a small switchboard. Pleasant personality, a high standard of education and the ability to act on one's initiative are essential. Good typing speed required. Pleasant working environment. Pension plan, 5-day week, 8.45am-4.45pm. Starting salary not less than £9,000 including London weighting. Please apply in writing with full CV to The Director, The Ciba Foundation, 41 Portland Place, London W1N 4BN.

to take full responsibility for the running of busy, domestic and business life of owners of house open to public. Successful applicant must have proven record in dealing with domestic staff and be prepared to work with existing business personnel. Excellent salary and conditions offered, accommodation available.

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Excellent opportunity for a self-motivated, articulate PA/Secretary to join this progressive US Co., where you are encouraged to work on your own initiative. Skills required 100/80. French useful but not essential.

Ideal position for a numerate self-starter with City experience. This international Co will appreciate and reward your admin and typing skills with an excellent benefit package, including 5 week hols, bonus and free lunches. Shorthand useful but not

Colour your day in this lively young friendly environment, as an Assistant in Production. Only rusty shorthand required, typing 50 wpm. Excellent promotional prospects. Age 20+

A confident, people-person with min. 3 years secretarial experience is required by this young, progressive, fast expanding company. No short-hand necessary - typing 50 wpm. Excellent promotional prospects.

Exciting opportunity for an experienced and self-motivated Recruitment Consultant to join our privately owned consultancy. Non-smoker would be preferred, but not essential. This is a challenging and well rewarded career for someone ambitious, well spoken and well presented. On budget earnings (average 6 placements per month) c.\$25,000 pa with no limits. Definite career prospects into management with possible share of equity.

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Due to expansion we seek two additional Managers for new branches in central London. Age preferably 25 - 40. Previous employment agency experience essential. Suit self-motivated people with ambition and drive who like the idea of setting up a new office.
Contact (in confidence) Mr McBride on

Dynamic executive requires intelligent, hardworking and loyal P.A. for this strictly professional position. Perfect written English and skills of at least 120/80 are necessary. Non-smokers only. C.V. with detailed cover letter including salary history, career objective, languages spoken and if possible photo, to:

M. Leguia,
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Busy Lettings Department needs secretary/-assistant with good telephone manner and first class typing.
Lots of client contact and variety. Salary by negotiation.
Telephone 01 351 0821

Oil company requires experienced technicians to work at management level. Air fare paid, accommodation provided. 30 days annual leave plus interest leave. Applicants must be at least 30 years old and have: chartered and typing certificates for 100Wpm typewriting respectively. Visual processing experience desirable.

For information/applications from contact Party at:

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Call Patricia on 01-622 7522

£11,000. Working for the labor education manager you will need to have confidence in your skills and attitude to deal with new assignments etc as well as working to strict deadlines. Tatchell Cards 01 836 6866.

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Experienced, mature secretary required to assist the Chairman of this successful international consulting firm. Excellent career prospects. Salary and benefits negotiable. Please send CV to: REAGAN LTD (Ref: C10)

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Experienced Secretary/Office Administrator is invited to join expanding Government Affairs Consultancy. Good shorthand, typing and word processor skills, an innate curiosity about current and Government affairs together with a flexible and professional approach will secure appointment to this varied and stimulating post.

Applications in writing enclosing a detailed CV to: Geraldine L'Anson, Managing Director, Westminster & Whitehall Consultants Ltd, 25 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0EX

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With good secretarial and supervisory skills, long term contract assignment. Wages £15,000 plus overtime and holiday pay. Age 27 - 45. Please send CV to: David Webb 01 587 6516 or 01 587 6516 or send CV to 25 The Broadway, Westminster SW1H 1RE.

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Require an experienced secretary to the Regional Manager marketing Europe based in our London office. Good typing and shorthand skills.

Applications to: The Administration Manager, 16-20 Baker Street, London W1M 2AD.

Young, well spoken, well presented person required by established but expanding letting agency in Central London. Must be confident and outgoing and prepared to work hard, experience of residential lettings not essential. Reasonable starting salary plus car with good prospects for the right person. Apply to Kate Goodwin on 01 351 7575. ROLAND QUICK MANAGEMENT

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£8,000 - Putney SW15 Subsid of leading UK bank. Subsid college leave for their expanding personnel dept. Good typing & initiative essential. Details 498 1220 Steve Mills (no cons).

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£13,000 negotiable Bright, enthusiastic and motivated person required for Senior Secretary. Excellent career prospects. Excellent working conditions and very competitive salary. Apply to: 01 351 7575.

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£14,000 neg. Mature PA will provide full administrative support with the help of two junior staff. Responsibilities include monthly meeting, travel and in-house entertainment.

Organised and tactful, you will have initiative, excellent secretarial qualifications and previous experience at board level.

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This prestigious worldwide company is offering the opportunity for real involvement in marketing - experience in the marketing arena - organise and attend international conferences - co-ordinate and liaise with worldwide senior personnel. Call Sally-Anne Jones.

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U.S. university seeks ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY to Director of London Program. In addition to general secretarial skills, organizational ability and time bookkeeping are required. Strong educational background and experience preferred.

Salary negotiable. Send c.v. to: Prof. C.F. Delaney, University of Notre Dame, London Program, 7 Aldersgate Street, London W1X 3HF.

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Required for Manager of Walt Disney Entertainment Parks. Experience in Travel Industry a very decided advantage. Good salary and related benefits. Please reply in writing with resume to:

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The dynamic director of this leading publishing house requires a PA to give full secretarial support and become totally involved in the running of the company. Good organisational skills and the confidence to deal with top level people are essential attributes. Aged 25+

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Have you the cool head and the secretarial skills to organise the busy chairman of this highly successful property development company? This varied position involves all aspects of the business. Some PC or WP experience preferred. French and German an asset. Aged 25+

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In addition to a high standard of typing and shorthand, applicants must have a knowledge of the arts - preferably the decorative arts - and sufficient experience and initiative to understand and type French.

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In addition to first class secretarial skills, applicants should have previous office experience, ideally in newspaper publishing, and be able to cope with the demands of a very busy department. Shorthand is not essential but a knowledge and/or experience of word processors would be an advantage.

We work a 40-hour, 5-day week with 5 weeks holiday, BUPA & other Company Benefits.

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£12,000 + This international research organisation with strong WI offices seeks a young well-organised Secretary to a Director. He is working on a number of interesting projects and needs the kind of person who apart from providing secretarial support will take an interest in the work, get to know clients and become a part of the team. A PA, excellent prospects envisaged. 30-40 hrs week.

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Recruitment Consultants 18 Grosvenor Street London W1

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Of restaurant group recently established in Mayfair. 2 minutes from Oxford Circus and Bond Street Tube stations. Salary negotiable. £8,500-10,000 plus lunch. If you're intelligent, cheerful and resourceful please ring:

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PROPERTY c £13,000 Park Lane

Have you the cool head and the secretarial skills to organise the busy chairman of this highly successful property development company? This varied position involves all aspects of the business. Some PC or WP experience preferred. French and German an asset. Aged 25+

CHARITY c £10,000 SW1

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MOTOR RALLYING: MOUNTING TRAIL OF HUMAN DESTRUCTION AT THE HALFWAY STAGE OF THE 'ULTIMATE' ADVENTURE ON WHEELS

Death takes the wheel on road to Dakar

Ari Vatanen, of Finland, maintained his lead in the Paris-Dakar rally yesterday despite losing his way on the 746-kilometre stage from Agadez to Agadez when a sandstorm blinded many of the competitors.

There have been no celebrations of what Thierry Sabine originally conceived — the ultimate adventure in motor sport.

Two deaths in as many days over the weekend have sent morale on the 22-day event plummeting to an all-time low. Only after the death of the founder in 1986 did the future of the rally look in more jeopardy.

A Dutch navigator was killed on Saturday after his DAF truck somersaulted while crossing the notoriously harsh Tenebris desert. Kees van Leeuwen was killed as he was thrown from the cartwheeling vehicle. A suspected broken wheel is thought to have been the cause of the crash.

Yesterday, barely 24 hours

From Jeremy Hart, Agadez

after the truck incident, two vehicles from the Chesterfield Yamaha outfit collided at almost 100mph. They were blinded in a thick dust cloud on the stage from Agadez to Agadez.

A Frenchman, Patrick Canale, died in the accident. He was thrown from his Range Rover while still strapped to his seat, in a similar way to Saturday's incident.

Yesterday's fatality brings to 20 the number of deaths in the event's 10-year history.

The list of injuries for this year alone is horrifyingly long — two men paralysed (the latest of whom was involved in another incident yesterday), three serious chest and abdominal injuries and over a dozen broken limbs.

There has not been one day in Africa when at least one competitor has not been injured. The regulars are oblivious to the rate of human destruction the rally leaves in its wake. "It's just one of those things," one said yesterday.

The first African special stage apart, this year's "Dakar" has been no more difficult than the previous ones but, according to Renault's chief, Ulrich Brechmer, it is getting too fast for amateurs.

"You need pilots, racers, to drive the latest machines," he said. "It is fine to have pros and amateurs racing together but there are limits to a driver's capabilities. Unfortunately, sometimes these limits are exceeded."

"They have tried to please the top teams by making some more demanding sections and in the process knocking out some amateurs. But this is good. Most of the amateurs are out early before they can hurt themselves."

Jan de Rooy, team leader of the DAF team and driver of the sister truck to the one that crashed on Saturday, says that in no way is he bitter about the events of this weekend. "You can blame no one," he said. "We all know the dangers involved and no way do I blame the organizers."

STAGE PLACINGS (Dakar to Agadez, 746km): 1. Shintaro (Japan), 2. Shintaro (Japan), 3. Shintaro (Japan), 4. Shintaro (Japan), 5. Shintaro (Japan), 6. Shintaro (Japan), 7. Shintaro (Japan), 8. Shintaro (Japan), 9. Shintaro (Japan), 10. Shintaro (Japan), 11. Shintaro (Japan), 12. Shintaro (Japan), 13. Shintaro (Japan), 14. Shintaro (Japan), 15. Shintaro (Japan), 16. Shintaro (Japan), 17. Shintaro (Japan), 18. Shintaro (Japan), 19. Shintaro (Japan), 20. Shintaro (Japan).

PARIS TO DAKAR

The event's 10-year history. The list of injuries for this year alone is horrifyingly long — two men paralysed (the latest of whom was involved in another incident yesterday), three serious chest and abdominal injuries and over a dozen broken limbs.



Disaster in the desert: Chris Ross, of Britain, has injured after his DAF truck somersaulted, killing its Dutch navigator

YACHTING

Whitbread skippers call foul

By Malcolm McKee

A major yacht race organizing authority has come under attack from its own skippers for refusing to come to terms with the realities of competition in modern sailing.

The Royal Naval Sailing Association, organizers of the Whitbread round-the-world race, is facing protests from the skippers who sail the biggest ocean going yachts in the world — the multi-million pound maxi yachts.

Fielded every four years, the Whitbread is the world's longest and toughest ocean race. It attracts specially-designed purpose-built 30-metre yachts with 20 crew. Total distance is about 33,000 miles.

Last time it was staged there were allegations concerning the shifting of sails to improve stability. After the race many skippers went to court to claim that shifting of sails would be permitted since its prohibition is impossible to police.

But at an official briefing on Saturday, race chairman, Admiral Charles Williams, announced there would be no relaxation of the rule.

Skip Novak, of the United States, who skippered Sirocco in the previous race, immediately protested, saying his new yacht was already under construction with special sail storage after receiving a letter earlier from the organizers that this would be permitted.

Another argument broke out when Admiral Williams announced that weather routing would also be banned. Used particularly by French long distance yachtsmen, this was a technique whereby skippers would use a weather bureau to analyze prevailing weather conditions and make their decisions, often with recommendations as to changes of course, to the yacht.

It is a technique widely used by commercial shipping to avoid bad weather, improve fuel economy and minimize delay and damage from storms, but these racers want to use the routing bureau to help them find strong winds, not avoid them.

It is, says Admiral Williams, a clear violation of the yacht racing rule which prohibits any competitor receiving outside assistance. But individual skippers are demanding that the organizers can prevent some competitors from receiving the messages.

"If you can't police it, permit it," is the skipper's proposal, but Williams is adamant there will be no concessions.

The race itself is scheduled to start from Portsmouth on September 2, 1989.

Chris Law, of Britain, is eighteenth, with competitor Gary Charles in 25th position. Yesterday's race ended in a fourth-place finish for a French team, the first of three at the start, finishing in 15 knots on the final leg, was won by Andy Allen, of Australia, with 11th place from Sweden, with Kazuo Komatsu, of Japan, third.

Chris suffered a bad start and could only make good place while Komatsu finished fourth. However these placings are the subject of a protest lodged by Chris.

TENNIS

A moment of history for Fitzgerald and Shriver

By Rex Bellamy, Tennis Correspondent, Sydney

Pam Shriver and John Fitzgerald made a little history yesterday. They became the first players to win the singles titles in one of the world's oldest grass court tournaments, the New South Wales championships, which date from 1885.

Most of the renowned White City courts on which the tournament has been played since 1921, will be converted to Rebound Ace — the hard surface installed at the new national tennis centre in Melbourne — in readiness for next season. Call it if you like, another phase in the passing of what we used to call "lawns" tennis.

The White City became known throughout the world as the occasional home of the Australian championships and Davis Cup ties. The NSW championships have always been used because from the start they featured a women's tournament as well as a men's event. Apply, the grasscourt era ended with a combined festival.

The assembled cast was weaker than it should have been, because the leading players — especially the men — were reluctant to compete on grass a week before a grand slam event (the Australian championships) on hard courts.

In addition to a grand prix tournament in Auckland, there were invitation-only promotions at Adelaide and Sanctuary Cove, near Brisbane. And Geoff Graf was among the players who thought it wise to arrive in Melbourne early in order to practise on Rebound Ace.

Nevertheless, there was an air of enchantment about this week in the warmth of lovely Kew Gardens. It ended well, too, with two popular grass court specialists emerging as champions. Shriver, twice runner-up here, broke through at last with a 6-2, 6-3, win over Helena Sukova. Fitzgerald, who had not won a tournament since he played here in 1984, to become the first South Australian to win the NSW title.

Shriver, who was nursing a troublesome groin muscle and had to volley from further back than usual, was otherwise exceptional.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Sherban slithers to silver

By Michael Coleman

Chris Robison, a lieutenant in the Royal Navy, kept upright to win the muddy Southern Counties cross-country championship at Cockfosters on Sunday, but John Sherban, who twice fell when in the lead, deserved the honours.

Sherban took the race by the scruff of the neck, but he tumbled on a slimy stretch which the rest of the leaders skirted. Robison and Bernie Ford broke clear but Sherban, smothered in mud, clawed his way back to the lead on the second lap of the nine-mile race, but then fell at the same place again. The title was Robison's, but the never-say-die Sherban got past Ford on the run-in for second place.

At the Northern championships at Chester-le-Street, Paul Roden showed that he is on the way from being a good junior into becoming a good senior. Roden, aged 22, a former national junior champion, got away from Brian Rushworth just before half way to win.

Nick Rose, the former National champion, now aged 36, was unable to break away from his Bristol team colleague, Kevin Fahey, who sprang to take the Midlands title.

RESULTS: South (9 miles): 1. G. Robison (Rugby) 48min 20sec; 2. J. Sherban (Bristol) 49min 10sec; 3. P. Roden (Bristol) 50min 10sec; 4. K. Fahey (Bristol) 51min 10sec; 5. B. Ford (Bristol) 52min 10sec; 6. J. Sherban (Bristol) 53min 10sec; 7. P. Roden (Bristol) 54min 10sec; 8. K. Fahey (Bristol) 55min 10sec; 9. B. Ford (Bristol) 56min 10sec; 10. J. Sherban (Bristol) 57min 10sec; 11. P. Roden (Bristol) 58min 10sec; 12. K. Fahey (Bristol) 59min 10sec; 13. B. Ford (Bristol) 60min 10sec; 14. J. Sherban (Bristol) 61min 10sec; 15. P. Roden (Bristol) 62min 10sec; 16. K. Fahey (Bristol) 63min 10sec; 17. B. Ford (Bristol) 64min 10sec; 18. J. Sherban (Bristol) 65min 10sec; 19. P. Roden (Bristol) 66min 10sec; 20. K. Fahey (Bristol) 67min 10sec; 21. B. Ford (Bristol) 68min 10sec; 22. J. Sherban (Bristol) 69min 10sec; 23. P. Roden (Bristol) 70min 10sec; 24. K. Fahey (Bristol) 71min 10sec; 25. B. Ford (Bristol) 72min 10sec; 26. J. Sherban (Bristol) 73min 10sec; 27. P. Roden (Bristol) 74min 10sec; 28. K. Fahey (Bristol) 75min 10sec; 29. B. Ford (Bristol) 76min 10sec; 30. J. Sherban (Bristol) 77min 10sec; 31. P. Roden (Bristol) 78min 10sec; 32. K. Fahey (Bristol) 79min 10sec; 33. B. Ford (Bristol) 80min 10sec; 34. J. Sherban (Bristol) 81min 10sec; 35. P. Roden (Bristol) 82min 10sec; 36. K. Fahey (Bristol) 83min 10sec; 37. B. Ford (Bristol) 84min 10sec; 38. J. Sherban (Bristol) 85min 10sec; 39. P. Roden (Bristol) 86min 10sec; 40. K. Fahey (Bristol) 87min 10sec; 41. B. Ford (Bristol) 88min 10sec; 42. J. Sherban (Bristol) 89min 10sec; 43. P. Roden (Bristol) 90min 10sec; 44. K. Fahey (Bristol) 91min 10sec; 45. B. Ford (Bristol) 92min 10sec; 46. J. Sherban (Bristol) 93min 10sec; 47. P. Roden (Bristol) 94min 10sec; 48. K. Fahey (Bristol) 95min 10sec; 49. B. Ford (Bristol) 96min 10sec; 50. J. Sherban (Bristol) 97min 10sec; 51. P. Roden (Bristol) 98min 10sec; 52. K. Fahey (Bristol) 99min 10sec; 53. B. Ford (Bristol) 100min 10sec; 54. J. Sherban (Bristol) 101min 10sec; 55. P. Roden (Bristol) 102min 10sec; 56. K. Fahey (Bristol) 103min 10sec; 57. B. Ford (Bristol) 104min 10sec; 58. J. Sherban (Bristol) 105min 10sec; 59. P. Roden (Bristol) 106min 10sec; 60. K. Fahey (Bristol) 107min 10sec; 61. B. Ford (Bristol) 108min 10sec; 62. J. Sherban (Bristol) 109min 10sec; 63. P. Roden (Bristol) 110min 10sec; 64. K. Fahey (Bristol) 111min 10sec; 65. B. Ford (Bristol) 112min 10sec; 66. J. Sherban (Bristol) 113min 10sec; 67. P. Roden (Bristol) 114min 10sec; 68. K. Fahey (Bristol) 115min 10sec; 69. B. Ford (Bristol) 116min 10sec; 70. J. Sherban (Bristol) 117min 10sec; 71. P. Roden (Bristol) 118min 10sec; 72. K. Fahey (Bristol) 119min 10sec; 73. B. Ford (Bristol) 120min 10sec; 74. J. Sherban (Bristol) 121min 10sec; 75. P. Roden (Bristol) 122min 10sec; 76. K. Fahey (Bristol) 123min 10sec; 77. B. Ford (Bristol) 124min 10sec; 78. J. Sherban (Bristol) 125min 10sec; 79. P. Roden (Bristol) 126min 10sec; 80. K. Fahey (Bristol) 127min 10sec; 81. B. Ford (Bristol) 128min 10sec; 82. J. Sherban (Bristol) 129min 10sec; 83. P. Roden (Bristol) 130min 10sec; 84. K. Fahey (Bristol) 131min 10sec; 85. B. Ford (Bristol) 132min 10sec; 86. J. Sherban (Bristol) 133min 10sec; 87. P. Roden (Bristol) 134min 10sec; 88. K. Fahey (Bristol) 135min 10sec; 89. B. Ford (Bristol) 136min 10sec; 90. J. Sherban (Bristol) 137min 10sec; 91. P. Roden (Bristol) 138min 10sec; 92. K. Fahey (Bristol) 139min 10sec; 93. B. Ford (Bristol) 140min 10sec; 94. J. Sherban (Bristol) 141min 10sec; 95. P. Roden (Bristol) 142min 10sec; 96. K. Fahey (Bristol) 143min 10sec; 97. B. Ford (Bristol) 144min 10sec; 98. J. Sherban (Bristol) 145min 10sec; 99. P. Roden (Bristol) 146min 10sec; 100. K. Fahey (Bristol) 147min 10sec; 101. B. Ford (Bristol) 148min 10sec; 102. J. Sherban (Bristol) 149min 10sec; 103. P. Roden (Bristol) 150min 10sec; 104. K. Fahey (Bristol) 151min 10sec; 105. B. Ford (Bristol) 152min 10sec; 106. J. Sherban (Bristol) 153min 10sec; 107. P. Roden (Bristol) 154min 10sec; 108. K. Fahey (Bristol) 155min 10sec; 109. B. Ford (Bristol) 156min 10sec; 110. J. Sherban (Bristol) 157min 10sec; 111. P. Roden (Bristol) 158min 10sec; 112. K. Fahey (Bristol) 159min 10sec; 113. B. Ford (Bristol) 160min 10sec; 114. J. Sherban (Bristol) 161min 10sec; 115. P. Roden (Bristol) 162min 10sec; 116. K. Fahey (Bristol) 163min 10sec; 117. B. Ford (Bristol) 164min 10sec; 118. J. Sherban (Bristol) 165min 10sec; 119. P. Roden (Bristol) 166min 10sec; 120. K. Fahey (Bristol) 167min 10sec; 121. B. Ford (Bristol) 168min 10sec; 122. J. Sherban (Bristol) 169min 10sec; 123. P. Roden (Bristol) 170min 10sec; 124. K. Fahey (Bristol) 171min 10sec; 125. B. Ford (Bristol) 172min 10sec; 126. J. Sherban (Bristol) 173min 10sec; 127. P. Roden (Bristol) 174min 10sec; 128. K. Fahey (Bristol) 175min 10sec; 129. B. Ford (Bristol) 176min 10sec; 130. J. Sherban (Bristol) 177min 10sec; 131. P. Roden (Bristol) 178min 10sec; 132. K. Fahey (Bristol) 179min 10sec; 133. B. Ford (Bristol) 180min 10sec; 134. J. Sherban (Bristol) 181min 10sec; 135. P. Roden (Bristol) 182min 10sec; 136. K. Fahey (Bristol) 183min 10sec; 137. B. Ford (Bristol) 184min 10sec; 138. J. Sherban (Bristol) 185min 10sec; 139. P. Roden (Bristol) 186min 10sec; 140. K. Fahey (Bristol) 187min 10sec; 141. B. Ford (Bristol) 188min 10sec; 142. J. Sherban (Bristol) 189min 10sec; 143. P. Roden (Bristol) 190min 10sec; 144. K. Fahey (Bristol) 191min 10sec; 145. B. Ford (Bristol) 192min 10sec; 146. J. Sherban (Bristol) 193min 10sec; 147. P. Roden (Bristol) 194min 10sec; 148. K. Fahey (Bristol) 195min 10sec; 149. B. Ford (Bristol) 196min 10sec; 150. J. Sherban (Bristol) 197min 10sec; 151. P. Roden (Bristol) 198min 10sec; 152. K. Fahey (Bristol) 199min 10sec; 153. B. Ford (Bristol) 200min 10sec; 154. J. Sherban (Bristol) 201min 10sec; 155. P. Roden (Bristol) 202min 10sec; 156. K. Fahey (Bristol) 203min 10sec; 157. B. Ford (Bristol) 204min 10sec; 158. J. 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